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No survivors

Canadian investigators search yesterday through recovered belongings and debris from the downed Swissair Flight 111 at a dock in Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia. The airliner crashed into the Atlantic Ocean late Wednesday night, killing all 229 passengers aboard. Stories, Page 6 (AP)

Histadrut suspends strike over weekend

Schools remain closed as negotiations continue

By NINA GILBERT

The Histadrut last night suspended its public sector strike until Sunday at 6 a.m., after its talks with the Treasury broke off yesterday evening. It was agreed to meet again tomorrow night.

"We'll start talking business on Saturday night," Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's spokesman said last night.

Treasury, teachers trade charges, Page 2

The Histadrut said that if no progress is achieved in those talks, the strike would resume in full force, beginning with a halt to garbage collection at midnight. It said it decided to suspend the strike for the weekend to prevent suffering by the public.

No progress was made in negotiations with the teachers yesterday, and schools will be closed today as well.

The general strike, which began at 6 a.m. yesterday, kept some 300,000 public sector workers away from their jobs, and resulted in the closure of all government offices, post offices, local authority departments, Bezeq, railways, ports, and a reduction in services at Kupat Holim Clalit and government hospitals.

The Histadrut instructed lifeguards employed by local authorities to return to work, since schoolchildren, kept home by the teachers' strike, had flocked to the beaches.

Strike headquarters reported that the strike was almost fully implemented.

At Ben-Gurion Airport, 15 flights were delayed last night, due to a breakdown in luggage inspection systems. In the morning, customs inspectors did not show up for work.

Garbage was collected only from hospitals and old-age homes. Firefighters were operating on a Shabbat schedule.

The Federation of Chambers of Commerce said that the strike would cost the economy NIS 25 million-NIS 30m. a day, and accused the Histadrut of exploiting the freedom to strike. The Manufacturers Association said that "the strike was a mistake and came at a terrible time."

Meanwhile, in its budget proposals to be discussed by the cabinet on Sunday, the Treasury has included proposed legislation that would require a least 50 percent of workers to vote by secret ballot on a strike, and for a majority of those workers to agree to the move in order for it to be legal.

Yossi Kucik (Flash 90)

"Great damage is being caused to the economy by the action of militant union leaders who declare strikes while most of the workers oppose them," the Treasury said.

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz said last night that he had submitted his proposal for a solution to the Treasury, and "it is the only proposal I will discuss. If [the Treasury] accepts it, the strike will be over; if not, it will continue."

He threatened to expand the strike and close Ben-Gurion Airport if there is no progress in the talks.

Neeman boasted to a news conference that the parking lot at the Finance Ministry was nearly full. However, when he took his seat at the meeting, he nearly took a fall because his chair was broken, and he joked that it could have happened through a conspiracy.

He said that he "still does not know what the strike is about," and called on the Histadrut to resolve differences at the negotiating table.

"It is unreasonable that the entire public should have to suffer because of one sector or another," he said. "I know that the Histadrut wants what is best for its workers, but the Treasury must take into account the good of all citizens."

Neeman and Treasury wage director Yossi Kucik stood firm against the Histadrut's demands for a commitment to change wage scales and to move employees from personnel company contracts onto the state payroll.

See STRIKE, Page 3

Ross expected next week

By DANNA HARMAN

US Mideast envoy Dennis Ross is to make a short visit here in the middle of next week to try to bridge gaps between Israel and the Palestinians.

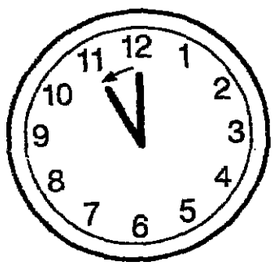
US President Bill Clinton announced his intention to send Ross to the region while on an official visit to Northern Ireland, a day after speaking by phone with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Netanyahu's communications director David Bar-Illan characterized the 40-minute talk between the US and Israeli leaders Wednesday evening as "warm, friendly, and wide-ranging," and expressed his hope that while in Israel, Ross would succeed in encouraging the Palestinians to comply with their security obligations.

Bar-Illan stressed that once such commitments by the Palestinians were secured, Israel would be willing to move forward with the 13 percent pullback.

"The scope of the withdrawal is no longer an issue," said Bar-Illan, adding that Netanyahu is confident his cabinet will approve such a redeployment under certain conditions.

See ROSS, Page 12



Clocks go back tomorrow

Don't forget to turn the clocks back. Daylight Saving Time will conclude tomorrow night at midnight. At that time, clocks should be moved backward by one hour, from midnight to 11 p.m.

Daylight Saving Time started this year on March 19, and will have been in effect for 170 days.

Interior Minister Eli Suissa has announced he is establishing a committee to examine the whole issue of Daylight Saving Time and make recommendations on the optimum period. Suissa said he wants to set the period for several years, so that the matter does not have to be debated each year.

Jerusalem Post Staff

SHABBAT	BEGINS	ENDS
Jerusalem	6:23 p.m.	7:36 p.m.
Tel Aviv	6:41 p.m.	7:38 p.m.
Haifa	6:33 p.m.	7:38 p.m.
Beersheba	6:40 p.m.	7:37 p.m.
Eilat	6:37 p.m.	7:35 p.m.

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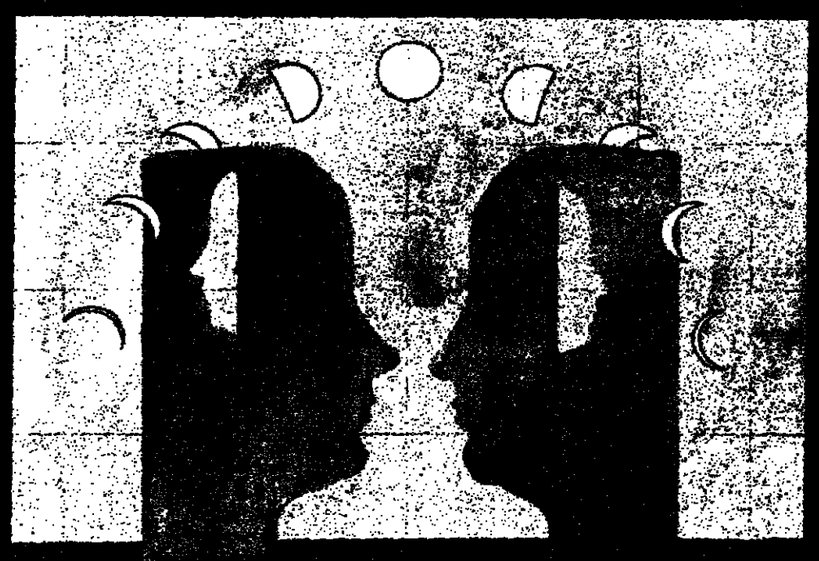

Erik Varnoveni, Artist
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Court orders Klingberg freed

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Ailing spy Marcus Klingberg, jailed in 1983 for passing biological warfare secrets to the Eastern Bloc, will be released from prison in two weeks' time after serving 15 1/2 years of his 18-year sentence.

But Klingberg, 80, will be under stringent surveillance 24 hours a day at home and will be allowed to leave his house for only two hours each day, Beersheba District Court, which ruled in favor of his release, decided yesterday.

In handing down its ruling yesterday afternoon, the court noted that "the state must bear in mind humanitarian considerations and not merely security."

"This is an important and humane decision and I sincerely hope the state will not appeal against it," said Klingberg's lawyer, Avigdor Feldman, who had been fighting a legal battle for his client's release for more than three years.

Klingberg took his appeal to court when the Prisons Service parole board rejected his request for a third off, in February 1997.

Devora Hen, who represented the State Attorney's Office, asked for time to consider an appeal. The court complied and decided to delay the release for two weeks.

Speaking after the decision, Feldman said that the GSS no longer objected to Klingberg's release on security grounds, since the "mystical" claim that he knew

Marcus Klingberg (Reuters)

something which others could extract from him had been disproven. The testimony of former GSS head Ya'acov Perry had helped in this respect, and the court also considered Klingberg's serious health problems and advanced age, Feldman said.

"He will go back to anonymity and no one will be interested in Klingberg after his release," Feldman said.

An emotional Klingberg said that he thanked the court and his lawyer. "My health has deteriorated rapidly in the past two weeks. I hope I shall have the chance to be in freedom for a while," he said, adding: "No one else has ever been in jail so long for this type of thing in Israel."

Klingberg, a world renowned epidemologist specializing in germ warfare, disappeared under mysterious circumstances in January 1983 while on his way to a scientific convention in Europe.

At the time, he was deputy head of the biological research institute in Ness Ziona. A news blackout was imposed on his arrest and trial and he was kept in jail under an assumed identity.

There were rumors that he had defected to Moscow.

Only 10 years later was the blackout lifted and foreign media published reports that Klingberg had handed sensitive information on biological warfare to the Soviet Union and East Germany. The information was said to have damaged not only Israeli interests, but those of the West. The reports said he had been tried and sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment.

As deputy head of the Ness Ziona institute, Klingberg frequently travelled abroad, accompanied by his wife, Wanda. They would also go to Switzerland for health treatments, the media reports said. When the scientist was arrested, Wanda, then 70, was with him and was detained on suspicion of aiding her husband. She reportedly tried to commit suicide and was rushed to Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv where her life was saved, the reports said. Klingberg himself reportedly tried three times to take his life.

Yesterday Klingberg telephoned from the courtroom to tell his daughter Sylvia of his release, and she decided on the spot to fly here from Paris, where she lives with her husband, Udi Adiv, who was convicted of spying for Syria.

Terror remembered

Two pupils at Jerusalem's Gymnasia Rehavia high school cry during a ceremony in Jerusalem marking a year since the Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall bombing, in which two Gymnasia pupils died. Among those participating were families of the five people killed in the attack and some of the more than 200 wounded. (Isaac Harari)

Treasury, teachers trade charges, not proposals

By HERB KEINON

Teachers' representatives and Treasury officials are to meet this morning in a renewed effort to resolve the teachers' strike, which entered its fourth day today.

The two sides traded recriminations yesterday, but no constructive proposals, as the two sides failed to hold face-to-face negotiations for the first time since the school strike began on Tuesday.

Both sides claim that matters have become more complicated because of the general Histadrut strike in the public sector.

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy spent the day trying to bridge the gap between the two sides, but to no apparent avail.

"After the teachers' demands for principals, salaries and activity outside the schools were accepted, the teachers should immediately stop their strike and enable the opening of the school year," Levy said.

According to Levy, the teacher's struggle revolved around those two issues, and that since agreement in principle was reached on the issues on Wednesday, there is no further reason for the strike.

"From the very beginning I supported the teacher's demands regarding the principals' salaries and payment for activity outside of schools, and I even helped gain their achievements on these issues, despite Treasury opposition, because I thought the struggle was just," Levy said. "And now, when the obstacles have been removed, the school year should open and no more damage should be done to students, their parents, the teachers and the teachers' image."

The agreement reached Wednesday would have provided a 25% wage increase for principals, an increase spread over two years, and payment of NIS 500 per day for teachers accompanying school outings. The talks broke down, however, when the Treasury insisted on including this in an overall wage agreement, while the teachers demanded that overall wage negotiations be held separately.

Meanwhile, Histadrut Teachers Union chief Avraham Ben-Shabbat dismissed as nonsense claims by Treasury officials that the teachers were failing to budge because of competition between the two main teachers unions.

Ben-Shabbat countered that his union, and Ran Erez's Secondary Schools Teachers Association, have never worked in closer tandem.

In addition to Levy, Israel Parents Association Chairman Shai Lachman also took the teachers to task for continuing the strike.

"I am expressing the anger, frustration and disappointment of dozens of parents from all over the country, and a number of teachers, who called us to protest the strike," Lachman said. "The theme of the calls has been that the children have turned into hostages and cannon fodder in the teachers' struggle for supplemental payments and benefits. We are not talking about base pay, but supplements. Granted, they are important, but are they important enough to strike?"

Lachman said the strike is harming the image of the teachers, and damaging the educational system. "It is possible they will twist the Treasury's arms and get some monetary and professional benefits, but it will be an empty victory," he said. "The strike and [last year's] sanctions have left scorched earth in the educational system. Every profession has a Hippocratic oath. Now I do not think the teachers are acting faithfully to their profession."

Levy said he would not agree to a single shekel cut in his ministry's budget, and would present his proposed budget calling for a NIS 1.7 billion increase. He said almost a billion shekels had been cut from the education budget since the government took office, seriously reducing the level of education in Israel. He said his office wants to expand the long school day, aid schools in the Arab and Beduin sector, and absorb the Falash Mura in the education system, among other projects.

Expert: School outings teach pupils important lessons

With pay for escorting students on school trips a key issue in the teachers' strike, parents at wits' end juggling their work schedules with Junior's strike-imposed vacation could be excused for thinking: "Forget the school trips already. Who needs to camp near the Kinneret? Just get the kids back to class."

But that approach, said Ehud Prawer, principal at Jerusalem's Gymnasia Rehavia, would be a big mistake. Prawer, who wrote his master's dissertation on the role of the school outing, said trips are a cornerstone of the country's educational system. And that says nothing about the hundreds of millions of dollars these trips generate each year.

In the pre-state days, even before the British Mandate, the trips were an integral part of the curriculum in the first Zionist schools.

"The trips were a way to acquaint people who came to Israel with the land – a land they considered their homeland, even though they were not born here," Prawer said.

From the beginning of the gymnasia in Palestine in 1906, the expeditions were considered a central element of Zionist education. The trips began in the secular schools, and only much latter were adopted by religious schools, Prawer said.

"The first tours gave many teachers, and all the pupils, an opportunity to discover the land," Prawer said. "They went long distances, to the Hermon, Jerusalem, Hebron, the Jordan. It was an attempt to connect the youth to the scenery, and the land's past."

The trips' nature changed over time, first by going to sites that were not of strictly Jewish interest, and then by focusing on nature and ecological aspects. But even today, he said, these trips are an important mechanism through which the students get to know different parts of the country.

"Today, the traveling habits of families have changed," Prawer said. "You always find that you are taking kids to places they have never been before."

The trips today serve less as a device to connect students to the land, since so many of the students are no longer immigrants and children of immigrants, but third- and fourth-generation Israelis. However, the expeditions do serve as a way to unite the students, something Prawer said the educational system still views as a very high priority.

"The idea of creating a feeling of togetherness is very important here," Prawer said. "The trips are a tool to create this togetherness, something that US schools don't deal with. Schools here are involved in nation building, and the values of being together are very important."

Herb Keinon

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

MARRIAGE - HECHT-NEIGER

Shahar Hecht and Lior Neiger were married last night in Jerusalem. The bride is the daughter of Shraga and Esther Hecht. The groom is the son of Miriam Neiger and the late Binyamin Neiger.

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هكذا من الاصل

Gov't hospitals to cut services

Starting Monday, only life-saving services to be provided

By JUDY SIEGEL

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza yesterday reacted "with fury" to an announcement by heads of the government hospitals that they will severely reduce services starting Monday.

Dr. Ya'acov Hart, who heads the government hospital directors' committee, along with Sheba Hospital deputy director Dr. Ze'ev Rothstein and government hospital doctors' union chairman Dr. Elisha Bartov, said that only life-saving treatments will be offered.

The hospital managers were especially upset by new instructions from the Treasury's accountant-general to operate according to their actual financial condition and not their approved budgets; if they had no money, they could not spend any.

The main cause of their distress is the health funds' debts of NIS 400 million to the hospitals. The health funds are short of money because the Finance Ministry refuses to hand over some NIS 600 million in payments and loans until the health funds sign agreements limiting their expenditure, without knowing the extent of their income for next year.

Hart said that if the hospitals don't reduce their functioning to an absolute minimum next week, they will collapse altogether. He added that the institutions are preparing to close down cafeterias so that enough funds will be left to purchase drugs and disposable equipment for patients.

The doctors called on the government to abrogate the accountant-general's order. They also urged the public to put pressure on the government to change its tight-fisted policies regarding health care.

The general state hospitals include Sheba, Ichilov, Assaf Harofeh, Wolfson, Hillel Yoffe, Rambam, Bnai Zion, Poriya, Barzilai, and Sieff.

Matza, who is due to meet next week with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu about the crisis in the health system, warned the hospital directors "against carrying out their struggle on the backs of the patients."

He also denied that the government hospitals had received instructions from his ministry to operate according to an emergency schedule and called plans for reducing services to a minimum "a strike."

Matza met with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman yesterday morning and explained the dire situation in the hospitals. Neeman "promised to find an intermediate funding solution so the hospitals could continue operating," Matza said.

Matza also met this week with heads of the hospitals not owned either by the government or Kupat Holim Clalit, including Hadassah-University hospitals, Shaare Zedek, and Laniado. They said they had never known such a precarious financial situation and claimed they don't have enough financial reserves to function for more than a few days.

Meanwhile, Clalit's hospitals are due to return to normal at 7 a.m. today after the reduced functioning instituted during yesterday's Histadrut strike.

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz monitors the news in the Histadrut situation room in Jerusalem yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

Little sympathy on the street for strikers

ON STRIKE

By AMY KLEIN

Yesterday was not a good day to run errands.

People in the private sector who took the day off to take care of personal business – at any government or municipal office, the National Insurance Institute, Kupat Holim Clalit, the Employment Service, or Israel Electric Corporation – were out of luck. The general strike affected almost everybody.

Israel Radio and Television started off the morning badly, with their stations emitting a high-pitched emergency whine in honor of the strike.

Most people on the streets of Jerusalem did not support the general strike, and often confused it with the teachers' strike. Some said it was good that the strikes were simultaneous, so at least parents could accompany their kids to the mall or beach.

A number of late-morning stragglers who hadn't heard about the strike yanked a locked post-office door in the Nayot neighborhood of Jerusalem, only to be informed by customers at the adjacent coffee shop about the strike.

The Jerusalem Municipality published a request to residents not to take out their garbage over the weekend "in order to preserve the cleanliness of the city over Shabbat."

It wasn't a good day to be sick either, with Magen David Adom and government hospital emergency rooms and intensive care operating on a Shabbat schedule. Terem, a private medical service, said they had seen many more patients.

In town, business was slower than usual, cafe and restaurant owners said. "It's amazingly quiet," said the owner of a coffee shop in Nahalat Shiva. "The schools are out, there's no business. I hate the strike."

A fast-food store owner agreed. "If it's not a strike, it's a terrorist attack. If it's not a terrorist attack it's something else. This is a crazy country."

Yuval Kohavi, a jewelry store owner, disagreed: Business was up, he said, but he didn't care. "I have no sympathy for the people on strike. They're doing what's good for them, and that just attests to the deteriorating economic and political situation in this country," he said.

Merav, a 22-year-old student also didn't care about the strike: "I heard the buses were running. That's enough for me."

But at the Finance Ministry – the place which could make or break the strike – it was almost business as usual. "We aren't getting paid, so why should we strike?" said Ruti Rebibo. She said if the ministry would be blocked by strikers, she would "climb through the window to get to work" so she would be paid.

Other strikers also lamented the loss of pay, even when they sympathized with the cause. "I think it's logical because we need a pay rise, but they need to let us work while they negotiate," said a 25-year-old National Insurance worker from Ramot who couldn't go to work even if she wanted to because her office was blocked by strikers.

The only person interviewed to express support for the strike was an American tourist, who attributed it to the crazy ways of a foreign land.

"I was told this happens every year," said Molly, 24, from Washington, DC. "I guess if people feel they need to strike, then that's what they should do."

How to coordinate a strike

By AMY KLEIN

All was quiet yesterday morning at Histadrut headquarters in Jerusalem, except for the sound of telephones ringing in the seventh-floor conference room, where Histadrut leaders and members of the unions manned phones to coordinate the strike.

The eight people in the room were in touch with work places around the country to give out information, answer questions, and trouble-shoot problems.

Shai Shani, chairman of the Trade Union Department, smoked a cigarette and tossed off orders to the others. "Tell all the lifeguards to get back to work," he told one caller.

Lifeguards had to go to work as many children would go to the beach because of of the school strike, he said.

A small percentage of people break the strike, and they deal with the strike-breakers on an individual basis, Shani said. "There is always opposition to everything, but this strike is very successful."

This strike was easier to implement than the last one in December 1997, when the Histadrut struck for five days, primarily over pensions funds. "It was difficult to explain the last strike to workers because they didn't feel it in their pocketbooks. But this strike is easy because it effects everyone immediately," he said.

The first day of the strike is generally the hardest, Shani said, but the longer a strike continues, the easier it is to enforce. A strike, like a moving object, gathers momentum. "It just gets stronger and stronger," he said.

Girls check out the movie offerings yesterday at the Jerusalem Mall, where the theaters opened for extra daytime showings to accommodate youngsters still out of school due to the teachers' strike. (Brian Hendler)

No quick concessions on offer

BACKGROUND

By LARRY DERFNER

On the eve of the general strike of December 1997, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman likened the Histadrut to "home-grown bombs." In the current strike, he warned that the Histadrut would drive Israel into the "stormy sea" of world economic chaos.

Neeman, one of the country's leading attorneys, talks tough. But in December he gave in to most of the Histadrut's key demands, chiefly on pension benefits, after a strike of only five days.

Will he concede again this time and grant the workers the substantial salary increases they're demanding, or will he stare the Histadrut down and hold public sector wages at their present level, as he vows to do?

Yaakov Neeman (Israel Sun)

Moshe Nissim, who was finance minister from 1986-88, said that while he thinks the December strike ended without a clear winner, the Histadrut "is convinced it won a great victory over Neeman, so it feels it has the momentum." But this could shift, Nissim said, if Neeman and the government win public support by making the case that granting the Histadrut's demands will refuel inflation.

"Above all, the government must show backbone, even if the strike goes on a long time," he said. "In Israel, every labor dispute is won by the side that has the most staying power."

Political commentator Hanan Crystal said the man to watch is Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. In all economic matters that have large political implications, he said, "Neeman is a clerk. Netanyahu calls the shots."

He pointed out that in the teachers' strike, Education Minister Yitzhak Levy was ready to sign a contract, but Neeman didn't give his financial backing, which indicated that Netanyahu thought he stood to benefit from the strike – and from the public sector strike that immediately followed.

"This isn't a popular strike. The public doesn't understand the reason for it, and doesn't support it. Evidently Netanyahu thinks he can gain politically by blaming the public's inconvenience on the Histadrut, which is linked to the Labor Party," Crystal said.

Either way, Nissim's or Crystal's, there is no reason to think Neeman or Netanyahu is planning another quick concession to the strikers – at least not this week.

STRIKE

Continued from Page 1

"These measures constitute increases in real wages," said Kucik. The Treasury is insisting there will be no raises beyond inflation. Kucik said that in his four years on the job, he has never seen such a "weird" strike.

However, he said that much progress had been made on pension issues and pay scales for local authority workers.

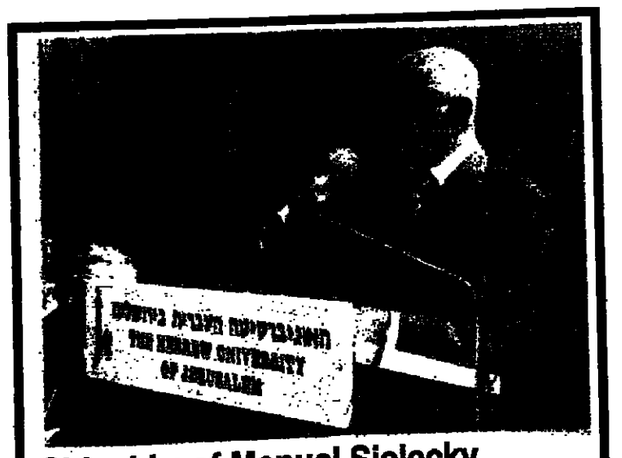
Turning to the teachers' strike, he said that the teachers' unions have "fallen off the planet" and that parents and children have fallen victim to a struggle between two teachers' unions which are outdoing the other with "wild wage demands" for principals and for compensation for school trips.

Winning numbers

In yesterday's Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 688726 won NIS 1.5 million, while ticket number 401434 won the car. Tickets 280370, 629386, 740931, 586675, 676152, 584733, 180815 and 355975 won NIS 5,000.

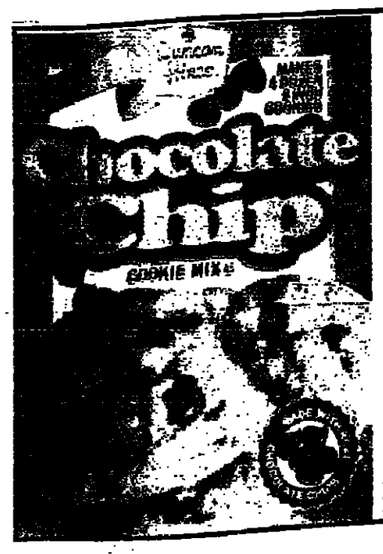
Tickets ending in 00789, 75033, 85898, 47671, 93803, 75129, 62882, 07325, 42032, 95358, 54796, 27585, 02890, 08232, 30135, 28824, 37616, 84599 and 85667 won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 540, 057, 777 and 038 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 69, 00, 05 and 89 won 40 NIS 30. Tickets ending in 89 and 74 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 7 and 2 won NIS 10.



Shloshim of Manuel Sielecky

Manuel Sielecky of Buenos Aires, Argentina, whose *shloshim* is being marked next week, is shown speaking at the dedication of the Sielecky Family Gates, at the entrance to the Mt. Scopus campus of the Hebrew University, in June 1996. Manuel, his wife, Lilli, and the entire Sielecky family participated in that event. Manuel Sielecky was a long-time member of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew University, and was among its most generous supporters. He received an honorary doctor of philosophy degree from the Hebrew University this past June.



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Since the beginning of the year

Police open 143 files on Hebron Jews

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Hebron police have opened 143 files against Jews so far this year, Judea and Samaria Police Commander Yitzhak Aharonovitch said yesterday at a press briefing at the Hebron police station.

Thirty-seven files were closed after the perpetrators were not found, 24 were handed over to the state attorney's office to file charges, and 82 are still under investigation, he said.

Judea and Samaria Police Spokesman Opher Sivan said the figures cited by Aharonovitch related to the period from the beginning of January until August. For the same period in 1997, Sivan said Hebron police opened 134 files against Jewish residents.

Since the murder of Rabbi Shlomo Ra'anan on August 20, 15 files have been opened against Jewish residents and 11 against Palestinians, he said. Of the 15, Aharonovitch said the majority were for arson or property damage.

Police have completed investigating nine of the 15 files, and charges will be filed against three suspects, including Elisheva and Noam Federman and Boaz Haetzni. Six files are still under investigation, added Sivan.

While police attempt to deal with both Jewish and Palestinian residents equally, Aharonovitch stressed the lack of cooperation with the Palestinian Authority, who when approached by Israel police to question a suspect who assaulted a Jewish resident or clashed with IDF troops do not assist in turning over the perpetrator.

Due to the tensions in the area, Aharonovitch decided to add eight more policemen to the Hebron police station. He stressed that there is a very small minority of lawbreakers among the Jewish residents in Hebron and Kiryat Arba, and called on the public to refrain from smearing the entire settlement community throughout Judea and Samaria.

Meanwhile police have intensified their activities in Hebron due to the rise in tension there. Aharonovitch stressed that tension has been building since the murder of Dov Driben in Maon, the two yeshiva students at Yitzhar and Ra'anan at Tel Rumeida.

As Aharonovitch was briefing journalists, General Security Service head Ami Ayalon met with settlement leaders at the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. Council director general Aharon Domb said the three-hour meeting mainly dealt with security matters and relations between security forces and the settlers.

Domb said the settlement leaders hoped there would be more such meetings with Ayalon in the future.

Meanwhile Palestinian Authority officials accused Israel of violating the agreements by carrying out archeological digs at Tel Rumeida. Civil Administration Spokesman Lt. Peter Lerner rejected the charges, and explained the dig was linked to the construction of a military structure and is therefore a security matter.

PA official Mahmoud Jabarin, overseeing the digs, called for the work to stop, claiming Israel had made use of the recent curfew to continue work at the site. Lerner rejected the claims, explaining that work had begun long before the curfew had been imposed.

Seeking new school

Shas pupils and supporters demonstrate yesterday in the Makor Baruch neighborhood of Jerusalem, demanding that the municipality lease Shas the Moriah school, currently used by the National Religious Party for a technical college serving some 70 students. MK Nissim Dahan said the school could hold about 600 students who currently learn in caravans or overcrowded classrooms. (Text: Amy Klein; photo: Flash 90)

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هكذا من الاصل

Lahad releases would-be assassin

Soha Bishara served 10 years for shooting SLA commander

By DAVID RUDGE and AP

South Lebanese Army commander General Antoine Lahad yesterday ordered the release from prison of Soha Bishara, 10 years after she tried to kill him in his Marjayoun home in the security zone.

Reports from Lebanon said that Lahad had instructed Bishara to be freed from the Khiam prison in the security zone for "humanitarian reasons." Hizbullah had asked for the release of Bishara – a member of the Lebanese Communist Party – as part of the package deal for the return of the remains of Naval Commando Itamar Ilya.

Hours after her release, Bishara, 31, told reporters that she did not regret trying to kill Lahad.

"It was our duty to liberate our land ... from the start I did not consider it a crime. I don't consider him (Lahad) a Lebanese. I considered him a Jew and continue to do so," she told a news conference.

Bishara, who befriended Lahad's wife in order to get close to the SLA commander to carry out the assassination attempt, was at the time a member of the then active Lebanese Communist Party.

Reports from Lebanon said that thousands of people gathered in Beirut for the reception to mark her release that was apparently brokered through the auspices of France, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Bishara, at the reception held for her in Beirut after her release, said she would continue to help the struggle to liberate south Lebanon.

The circumstances of her release were unclear. Prime Minister Rafik Hariri said French President Jacques Chirac played a key role in securing Bishara's freedom.

Soha Bishara, 31, (center) with relatives at her home in Beirut yesterday. Bishara, one of the most prominent Lebanese prisoners held in Khiam prison, was released after 10 years' imprisonment for trying to assassinate SLA commander Antoine. (AP)

But the SLA said she was ordered freed on "pure humanitarian reasons" by Lahad.

In June, France had played a role in a swap in which Israel and the SLA freed 55 Lebanese prisoners in return for Ilya's remains.

Bishara walked out of the Khiam detention camp in the security zone yesterday morning. From there she was driven to Beirut to meet with Hariri.

"You have raised Lebanon's head high," Hariri said, adding that she was free to stay in Lebanon or go to France, Lebanon's former colonial ruler where thousands of Lebanese of various political and religious affiliations have sought asylum.

State-run TV linked Bishara's fate to France's reported granting of citizenship to Lahad and senior SLA officers when or if Israel withdraws its army from Lebanon.

Bishara, a communist activist, shot Lahad on November 7, 1988, at his house in Marjayoun, reportedly with a 5.5mm. pistol said to have been a gift to Lebanese communist leaders from Cuban President Fidel Castro. Lahad, 67, survived with serious injuries and was treated in Israel. Bishara was captured and was held at the SLA-run detention center in Khiam without charges or trial all this time.

NEWS in brief

A-G seeks to prevent Lederman's release

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein has petitioned the High Court of Justice to issue an injunction preventing the early release from prison of Yisrael Lederman, who threw boiling tea at MK Yael Dayan, causing her second-degree burns on the chest. In March 1997, he was sentenced by Jerusalem Magistrate's Court to three years imprisonment.

While serving his sentence, Lederman was also found with pamphlets in his possession inciting against the Left. But, two weeks ago, the Prisons Service's parole board decided to give Lederman an early release as of next Sunday.

In his petition, Rubinstein cited the court's ruling that Lederman was a threat to public safety because of his ideological convictions, his lack of remorse, and his previous convictions for serious crimes. *Batsheva Tsur*

First part of Road 1 delayed a month

The first section of controversial Road 1 in the north Jerusalem suburb of Pisgat Ze'ev will be opened by the end of October, Ya'acov Edri, director-general of Moriah, the government's construction company, said yesterday. Mayor Ehud Olmert had promised to open it by September 30.

Edri and Jerusalem Municipality Director-General Ra'anan Dinor informed the heads of Pisgat Ze'ev's neighborhood council that the first stage, running from the French Hill bridge to Yekutieli Street, will open on September 16 to one-way traffic, from Pisgat Ze'ev to the city center.

The municipality has not said when work on stage two, which will add an additional lane each way and extend it to Jerusalem's Neveh Ya'acov neighborhood, will begin. *Amy Klein*

AIDS Task Force: Education far too low

The Health Ministry annually spends seven US cents per capita on AIDS education and prevention – one cent more than in Africa, the Israel AIDS Task Force disclosed yesterday. Western countries, by comparison, spend an average of $1.69 on this.

The new chairman of the task force, Ramy Hassman, said the ministry's budget is only NIS 1.3 million a year.

Hassman said that the task force was informed by the ministry this week that it was cancelling its NIS 30,000 grant for education and information work against AIDS. *Judy Siegel*

Harlem march organizer again calls Jews 'bloodsuckers'

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK – Only days before a controversial "hate march" in Harlem, the event's organizer vehemently repeated his charge that Jews are the "bloodsuckers" of the black community.

"Jews are the bloodsuckers of our community," Khalid Abdul Muhammad said Wednesday in Harlem. "They take tractor-trailer loads of money out of our community on a daily and consistent basis. They take it into theirs, making it richer and whiter." Those remarks echoed a 1993 speech that Muhammad gave at a New Jersey college, after which he was dismissed as spokesman for Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. Muhammad later founded the New Black Muslim Movement and the New Black Panther Party, although the number of followers is unclear.

His vitriolic attacks also have been aimed at black community leaders who have denounced him.

He has organized the so-called Million Youth March, which is set to be held in Harlem tomorrow. The organizers first intimated that more than 1 million young people will attend the march. However, estimates are now 50,000.

Mayor Rudy Giuliani had tried to stop the event from being held in Harlem, calling it a "hate march" and accusing the organizers of "race-baiting and antisemitic rhetoric." However, two federal courts said the organizers had a "free speech" right to hold a rally in Harlem, although the area was confined to a half-dozen blocks and the duration was limited to four hours tomorrow afternoon.

Amid his denunciations, Muhammad also suggested that the black community could learn from the Jews.

"Look at the Jews. The Jews make no apologies when they are attacked," he said. "They will go all over the world for one Nazi. That Nazi could be 99 years old, blind and in a wheelchair and they'll bring him back in chains because they want to make sure 'Never again.' I say to black people, 'Never again!'"

Leaders of the black community in New York have been distancing themselves from the event's organizers.

"They have offended the neighborhood leadership. They don't have much of a base in Harlem," Bill Perkins, a City Councilman from Harlem, told *The New York Times*. "Civic, religious, business and community organizations were not consulted, so as a result there is no base in the community. We realize we are going to have something in our neighborhood so we want to be helpful in avoiding altercations." Charles Rangel, a member of Congress representing Harlem, said: "What Khalid stands for is repugnant. The whole idea of antisemitism, racism, anti-Catholicism is against everything we are fighting for in Harlem."

Ministry slams Mandela comments

By DANNA HARMAN

The Foreign Ministry yesterday expressed its extreme disappointment with South African President Nelson Mandela, who blamed Israel for derailing the peace process.

Mandela said on Wednesday that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's administration had "narrow and chauvinistic" interests and that the Likud's "hardline positions" had succeeded only in blocking a "just and peaceful solution."

The Foreign Ministry responded by calling Mandela's comments "one-sided" and "unhelpful," and reiterated Israel's commitment to the process.

"Israel expresses its displeasure with the speech of President Mandela and his accusations against the government of Israel and its leader," it said in a statement.

The ministry said further that Mandela's call for the establishment of a Palestinian state encouraged the creation of facts on the ground and served to delegitimize the ongoing negotiation efforts.

Mandela made his comments at the opening of the Nonaligned Movement summit in Durban, which was attended by Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat.

Media wiretapper found guilty

Private investigator Rafi Friedan was found guilty of a series of illegal installations of listening devices on the phones, fax machines and cellular phones of a large number of business people and media personalities, including Science Minister Silvan Shalom, in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday. He is to be sentenced at a later date, and for the time being was ordered to leave his passport with the police.

Altogether Friedan listened in on the conversations of some 110 individuals, at the request of others. Friedan's partner, Ya'acov Tsur, had reached a plea-bargain agreement with the prosecution and became a state's witness, in exchange for the dropping of all charges against him.

Among Friedan's customers was *Ma'ariv* publisher Opher Nimrodi, who was convicted several months ago of ordering wiretaps, and David Ronen, in charge of security at the paper.

The trial of the two began in 1994, with Tsur turning state's witness in 1995. In his ruling, Judge Zecharia Caspi referred to Friedan as "a master wiretapper" and described how he listened in on the conversations of individuals, companies, and institutions. He said Friedan's testimony included "fabrications."

Friedan said at the conclusion of the ruling that "I expected a ruling similar to the one given. We will fight it. I feel I was done an injustice. The rich are the ones who call the tune."

Asked how he felt about the light sentences those who used his services received, Friedan said: "Everyone's abandoning the *Titanic*, and I'm the last one left." (Itim)

Jewish groups trying to decide on Swiss fund distribution

Public forums set across globe to solicit comments

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK – Public forums will be held in Israel, the US, Europe, South America, and Australia to solicit comments on the $1.25 billion Swiss banks settlement, according to survivors' lawyers in the US.

Individuals and organizations will have the opportunity to "make suggestions about who should get the money," said Melvyn Weiss, one of the American lawyers who brought the class-action lawsuits against the major Swiss banks, Credit Suisse and UBS, for hoarding Holocaust-era assets.

Attorneys hope to circulate to synagogues worldwide by Yom Kippur a letter with information about the procedure, Weiss said Wednesday in New York.

Ultimately materials will be available in multiple languages, published in newspapers, and toll-free phone numbers will be established to take comments and to advise survivors about the settlement.

"It's a daunting task," he said. "It will take time and there is going to be confusion." The distribution is expected to take four years.

The settlement cannot be made final, or distribution begin, until US District Court Judge Edward Korman holds hearings – one to determine if the settlement is fair and another to determine whether the plan for the distribution of funds is fair, Weiss said.

"I feel fairly confident that the bulk of money will go to individuals," not organizations, Weiss said.

Among the issue still to be determined are which individuals should be eligible, whether survivors' heirs will be eligible, and the amount of compensation for which kinds of losses.

Northern Command holds inquiry into fire on army truck

By DAVID RUDGE

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Gaby Ashkenazi yesterday ordered an inquiry into a fire aboard an army truck that was carrying anti-tank missiles as well as a gas container as it was travelling on the Golan Heights.

The potentially volatile mixture was among the aspects expected to be investigated by the committee of inquiry. There were no casualties in the incident, after the driver and escort on the truck managed to jump clear. There were no civilian casualties either, although the incident raised serious questions about the transport of potentially lethal armaments near populated areas.

The IDF spokesman said that the cause of the fire that broke out aboard the truck was unclear.

The spokesman said that Ashkenazi had ordered an inquiry into all aspects of the incident itself as well as the overall question of transporting materials and soldiers for training exercises and other purposes.

The Military Police also opened an inquiry into the incident and the findings will be submitted to the military prosecutors office.

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Lonely are the wired

Column One

Thomas O'Dwyer

The electronic global village of love and togetherness is a crock, and that's scientifically official.

Last week a $1.5 million research project delivered the first serious sociological study of what living in cyberspace can do to you. It can plunge you rapidly into depression, loneliness, and unreality. That was a shock to the social scientists at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University, and to the top-line information industries who financed them and expected entirely different results.

A few years ago, the *New Yorker* magazine, in one of its typical brilliant moments of social enlightenment, beat the scientists to it and fired the first warning shot across the bows of the newly-novel Internet. In a cartoon that has become a 1990s classic, a wistful dog sat in front of a computer and declared: "On the Internet, no one knows you're a dog." It amused me then to note that the neutral dog was immediately taken to be male.

Wolf pack

The Internet was then almost exclusively male and geek, and after seeing the dog cartoon, the words of Balthazar's song from *Much Ado About Nothing* hummed inexplicably through my head: "Sigh no more ladies, sigh no more, men were deceivers ever; One foot in sea and one on shore, To one thing constant never."

"Is it not strange that sheep's guts should hale souls out of men's bodies," said Benedict of Balthazar's haunting melody. Would it not be strange if the World Wide Web should hail dogs out of men's minds?

Not just dogs, but slavering wolves. On Wednesday, police across 14 countries in Europe, North America, and Australia simultaneously banged on the doors of over 100 people, arrested them and seized their computers. It was the first major raid of an Internet-Interpol into a world-wide pervert web of pedophiles called the Wonderland club. The police grabbed over 100,000 pornographic pictures of abused children.

"It's stomach-turning stuff, for any right-minded person," said Supt. John Stewardson, of the British police, who coordinated the international dragnet.

No modern journalist or academic can now work without consulting the electronic oracle that is the Internet, yet I for one was not surprised by the Pittsburgh research which suggests cyberspace is a weird and debilitating place.

Shallow yellow

This is true not for geeks and loner computer jockeys, says the Carnegie Mellon report. In itself, Internet use causes a decline in psychological well-being in normal adults and their families, the two years of research revealed.

"We were shocked by the findings, because they are counter-intuitive to what we know about how the Internet is being used socially," one of the senior researchers told an interviewer.

So much for the intellectual superiority of the Internet (interactive) over television (passive). To see a person getting their first e-mail in seconds from a lost relative far away is to be convinced that the Internet is a modern social miracle. So where comes the depression?

It seems relationships by e-mail and web sites become depressing if they are with real friends and family because, after the novelty wears off, they remind everyone of how dispersed they are and how little they see one another in real reality. Virtual doesn't cut it.

Even worse, relationships begun with strangers on the Internet start as exciting, and cut quickly to the shallow and superficial. (At the time Deep Blue was playing chess with human grandmasters, my wife perceptively named our computer Shallow Yellow.)

A virtual and shallow cyber-relationship becomes "real," causing the queasy cyberspace disorientation of sensory deprivation.

Real things

As humans, we need to catch the fleeting glance, the passing touch, the spontaneous grin, even the flash of irritation, that make our relationships as real and wholesome as fresh-baked bread. Even a love affair starts with a twinkle in the eye.

Anyone who has felt a brief flash of revulsion on seeing their computer for the first time after a vacation knows the researchers are on the right track – lonely are the wired.

The truth will slowly dawn on us all: The Internet is an information highway, not a social club or a singles bar. It is good for going somewhere with your research, but would you go to a party on the side of a motorway, or pick up a stranger there?

The reclusive Polish Nobel-winning poet Wislawa Szymborska told a *Washington Post* interviewer this week that the book remains the unchallenged medium for creative communication. "Those who are devoid of imagination go to theaters and cinemas, but nothing happens after. The book need the cooperation of its readers... That makes the book superior."

Years ago, I once chided a gay artist friend in Nicosia for always being surrounded by beautiful women, when I was having difficulty finding a date. "Oh, Thomas," said he, with a languid wave of a limp wrist, "women are all right, but there's nothing like the real thing." (He added that anyway, he was a closet heterosexual.)

He has now passed on, but I do not think he would have liked the Internet.

Swissair jet crashes, killing 229

By WILLY PALOY

PEGGY'S COVE, Nova Scotia (Reuters) – Rescue teams searched for bodies in rough, rain-swept seas off Canada's Atlantic coast yesterday after a Swissair jet crashed into the ocean, killing all 229 people on board.

Officials said there could be no survivors from the MD-11 plane which plunged into the ocean on Wednesday night while attempting an emergency landing in Halifax, Nova Scotia, after pilots reported smoke in the cabin.

"It is almost certain that there are no survivors," Swissair spokesman Roland Breitler said.

Airline officials said 136 of the 215 passengers flying from New York to Geneva were US citizens. Thirty were French and 28 Swiss. There were 14 crew members on board.

"There is no information at this point to indicate that this is a terrorism incident," said White House spokesman Mike McCurry, travelling with US President Bill Clinton in Northern Ireland.

World-renowned AIDS researcher Dr. Jonathan Mann, 51, head of Harvard University's AIDs research program and founding director of the World Health Organization's global AIDS program, was aboard the plane with his wife, WHO officials said.

Several other UN officials were also on board the flight, known as "the UN shuttle" because it connects the world body's headquarters in New York with the center of its European operations.

"We expect no survivors," Philippe Bruggisser, the chief executive of Swissair's parent company SAir Group told reporters in Zurich.

The cause of the crash was not immediately known but Royal Canadian Mounted Police divers were hunting for the "black box" flight recorder.

Navy divers equipped with sonar were searching for larger sections of the plane, RCMP Cpl. Frank Skidmore told a news conference.

Referring to possible survivors, he added: "Strange things have happened, but we're not optimistic at this time."

Canadian and US aviation authorities quickly launched a probe into the crash.

"What we are doing is looking at everyone who touched the airplane," said Fred Morrone, director of public safety for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

SAir Group's Bruggisser declined to speculate on what might have caused the worst crash in Swiss aviation history. Both Swissair and the MD-11 aircraft type had exceptional safety records before the crash.

Hours after the crash, rescue teams searching a 30-square-mile area by searchlight recovered dozens of bodies, but declined to give a precise number. The tail section of the plane had also been found, said Canadian Navy spokesman Andre Ereault.

Swissair officials said two infants were among the 229 on board Flight 111, flown by Swiss Urs Zimmermann, 50, with co-pilot Stephan Loew, 36, also from Switzerland.

The mood around the crash site was grim.

"Fishermen are coming on the VHF radio asking for body bags and pleading at some points for the navy to take bodies off their boats. They don't want any more bodies on their boats," said Canadian Broadcasting Corporation journalist Rob Gordon.

He described an eerie scene at the search zone, where scores of ships searched while flares threw a ghostly light over floating bodies, severed limbs, torn life rafts, life jackets and plane wreckage.

More than 1,000 people joined the search effort, concentrated five miles off the town of Peggy's Cove, which involved a dozen military planes and helicopters, two warships and scores of Canadian Coast Guard vessels and fishing boats.

The plane's pilot radioed Halifax traffic controllers at 9:14 p.m. EDT to report smoke in the cabin and said fuel was being dumped in preparation for an emergency landing in Halifax. Minutes later, the plane dropped off the radar.

Michael Goldfarb, former Federal Aviation Authority chief of staff, told CNN there are 15 minutes of taped conversation between the pilots and air traffic controllers which should help further the investigation. Details were not available.

Residents in the nearby town of Blandford said the aircraft screamed overhead very low, then they heard a loud bang.

Isabel Hubley, 80, lives five minutes from the crash site and actually helped local rescue teams locate where the plane had gone down.

"I was sitting where I couldn't see out the window. But I jumped and put my windows down. I said holy smoke, that didn't give me no warning. It sounded like a big clap of thunder because it rattled the house," she said.

Blandford area resident Edie Boyle told Reuters: "I thought at first it was a helicopter, all I heard was a big boom, like a sonic boom. The plane went right overhead, it was very, very low. It sounded terrible. I joked that it sounded like a UFO because it was just droning."

Halifax prepares for Jewish victims' families

By MARILYN HENRY and JUDY SIEGEL

The small Jewish community of Halifax, Nova Scotia, yesterday began to prepare for the Jewish crash victims of Swissair Flight 111 and their relatives, organizing guest housing for Shabbat, kosher meals, and arrangements for the *hevra kadisha*.

Inquiries from family members of Swissair passengers began arriving at the office of the Atlantic Jewish Council before dawn, less than 10 hours after the crash, said Jon Goldberg, the executive director.

The first inquiry came from Gush Etzion, from the family of crash victim Dr. Jonathan Mann, a former professor at the Harvard School of Public Health and a pioneer in the fight against AIDS. The family, which said it was planning to leave soon for Halifax, requested information about the local *hevra kadisha*.

The passengers' families will require services that are not available in Halifax, Goldberg said, adding that he expects up to 50 Jews to be among the victims.

"We have no Jewish funeral home here and in the *hevra kadisha*, we're all volunteers," Goldberg said. "I have no idea of what to do."

There are two synagogues and 1,500 Jews in Nova Scotia – half of them in Halifax, which is 550 miles northeast of Boston.

"We are mobilizing people to take guests for Shabbat. Someone asked for a kosher restaurant. We're not Queens," Goldberg said, referring to the heavily Jewish borough of New York.

He encouraged family members to remain at home until authorities notify them. The recovery of passengers' bodies is a slow process. "Who knows how long they would have to wait? There's nothing to do here," Goldberg said.

But, he said, when the families arrive, the Halifax Jews will welcome them. "We're here to help any Jewish people who need it."

The deaths of Mann and his wife are a great loss to Israel, where he lived for a year as a child and which he advised about dealing with AIDS, said Inon Schenker, director of the Jerusalem AIDS Project.

Schenker, whose program educates young people about AIDS, said last night he was shocked by their deaths, as Mann was his "mentor."

Dr. Jonathan Mann (AP)

Mann spent a year studying at the Gymnasia Rehavia in Jerusalem when he was 11 and his parents were contemplating aliya. His father worked as a psychiatrist at Hadassah-University Hospital during this period.

After founding the Global Program on AIDS, the UN-AIDS organization, in 1986, he travelled around the world teaching how to prevent infection. He made frequent visits to Israel, even though its AIDS rates are significantly lower than in most places he went. He also had Israeli relatives.

Russia's Acting Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin checks his watch during a farewell ceremony for US President Bill Clinton at Vnukovo Airport yesterday. Clinton left Moscow after two days of meetings with President Boris Yeltsin. (Reuters)

Long wait ends in tragedy for families

By ELIF KABAN

GENEVA (Reuters) - The sobbing of people whose loved ones will not be coming home yesterday rose above the din of airport announcements of flight departures and arrivals and busy duty free shops.

A middle-aged woman on a stretcher wept uncontrollably. A crying young couple held each other. Mothers, grandmothers, bankers, expatriates and people from all walks of life lined up at a reception desk, filling out forms and giving details to help identification.

It was the worst-case scenario for relatives of the passengers and crew of ill-fated Swissair Flight 111 en route to Geneva from New York when it crashed into Canadian waters on Wednesday night. For more than 100 family members of the victims, the business lounge where normally bankers quietly sip their coffee and read newspapers turned into a scene of despair.

"He was there, oh my God, he was there," wept an elderly father, hearing his son's name read out from a list of 229 people including two babies, aboard the crashed plane.

A middle-aged Mexican woman, Lidia Picco, wept as she explained why her sister was on the way to Geneva. "I invited her, I paid for her ticket to come, and now she's dead," she sobbed.

Nurses in white quietly walked down the corridor and psychologists tried to comfort people finding it hard to come to terms with what had happened.

Yeltsin tries to revive pact, ruble plunges, Duma digs in

By TIMOTHY HERITAGE

MOSCOW (Reuters) – Russian President Boris Yeltsin made a new bid to reach a compromise with parliament and end a deep political crisis yesterday by reviving a pact which could wrench away some of his sweeping powers.

He tried to take the initiative in the crisis as the ruble plunged to a new low, falling to much less than half its value of three weeks ago, and people crammed into banks in the mostly vain hope of withdrawing their ruble savings

But Yeltsin's Communist foes stood their ground. They vowed to step up moves to impeach him and confirmed they would block confirmation of prime minister-designate Viktor Chernomyrdin today in the second of three possible votes in parliament.

That pushed Russia closer to a showdown. Yeltsin would have to dissolve the Duma and call an early parliamentary election if it rejected his candidate three times. But impeachment moves would block a dissolution and create a constitutional vacuum.

"Everything that's wrong with our country in the minds of our [people] is connected with Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin," Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov, whose party is the dominant force in the Duma, told US television network ABC.

Repeated warnings of civil unrest in the past few days sparked rumors on Western financial markets of military activity outside Moscow yesterday. The Defense Ministry quickly dismissed the reports as "nonsense".

The Kremlin said Yeltsin was working on documents at his Gorky-9 residence outside Moscow after his two-day summit with US President Bill Clinton, who left for Ireland yesterday.

But despite Yeltsin's absence from the Kremlin, his aides launched fresh efforts to reach a compromise.

Yeltsin's chief of staff, Valentin Yumashev, held talks with Duma Speaker Gennady Seleznyov to try to persuade the chamber to back Chernomyrdin.

Yumashev said Yeltsin wanted to revive talks on a political agreement which the opposition backed out of on Sunday, even though it would have reduced Yeltsin's powers to name the cabinet and prevented him from dissolving the Duma for a year.

The Kremlin said it would send Yeltsin's amended version of the agreement to the Duma later yesterday, but that the changes would be "insignificant".

Despite this, Seleznyov told a news conference Yeltsin was ready to alter laws on the government to cede some of his powers.

The Speaker, a Communist, said Yeltsin could give up the power to appoint ministers to the prime minister but Seleznyov said he doubted the president would offer parliament the greater role it has sought in determining the cabinet line-up.

Chernomyrdin won the support of only 94 of the Duma's 450 members in a first vote on his candidacy on Monday and is likely to be voted down again today. He needs at least 226 votes.

Nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky said his Liberal Democratic Party would now back Chernomyrdin. But the Communist Party and its two leftist allies have 212 deputies and can count on the votes of some independent parliamentarians.

A government source said Chernomyrdin would outline "radical" proposals to end the financial crisis in a speech to the upper house of parliament today but gave no details.

A new opinion poll showed only 26 percent of respondents wanted Yeltsin to remain president, nearly half wanted his powers curbed and 67% blamed him for Russia's problems.

Thirty-four percent blamed Chernomyrdin's previous government, sacked in March.

Seleznyov said the Duma might be ready to vote on formally impeaching Yeltsin next week. The move would need 300 votes in the Duma and is unlikely ever to reach a conclusion. But once proceedings were under way, Yeltsin could not dissolve the Duma.

The economic woes, which have made Yeltsin weaker than at any time since he became president in 1991, deepen by the day.

The ruble was officially set at 13.4608 to the dollar yesterday under a new system, and then slid in trading on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange (MICEX) to a bid/offer rate of 16,000/22,000 the dollar. It stood at 6.31 on August 14.

Iran war games send warning to Taleban

By BARRY MAY

DUBAI (Reuters) – Large-scale Iranian maneuvers on the border with Afghanistan are a warning to the Taleban militia which they cannot afford to ignore, military analysts said yesterday.

Fighters of the purist Islamic movement which rules about 90 percent of Afghanistan, though battle-hardened and determined, could not muster enough forces to match the 70,000 Iranians engaged in three days of exercises only 60 km. from the border, the analysts added.

Revolutionary Guards, paratroopers, and commandos using tanks, mock air attacks, and heavy artillery were involved in the war games – the largest conducted in the region either before or since the 1979 revolution.

Iranian newspapers said the bulk of Iran's forces taking part in the exercises would remain in the rugged border area.

The exercise follows heightened tension between Iran's Shi'ite government and the Sunni Taleban over the fate of 11 Iranian diplomats and a correspondent of the official Islamic Republic News Agency missing since the fall of the Afghan opposition's northern stronghold of Mazar-i-Sharif on August 8.

Iran said they were arrested. The Taleban's supreme leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, said on Tuesday they were "probably dead."

"There's a big question as to whether they are still alive, and so things are not going to look good if it comes to light eventually that they have been killed. Things could get nasty along that border," said Terence Taylor, of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Taleban officials have described the Iranian war games as threatening behavior and warned against any escalation of tension on the border.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said the exercises are a warning to the Taleban.

The Taleban released five Iranian captives yesterday, but none of those missing from Mazar-i-Sharif were among them.

The Taleban militia, though relatively few in number, have shown they are able to mobilize and concentrate their fighters wherever they have needed to apply pressure.

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Clinton in Belfast: Support peace

By LAURENCE MCQUILLAN

BELFAST (Reuters) – US President Bill Clinton yesterday warned Northern Ireland that it faces more acts of violence on the road to peace, but urged its citizens to back those trying to end three decades of bloodshed.

"To the people of Northern Ireland I say, it is your will for peace that has brought your country to this moment of hope," Clinton said. "Do not let it slip away. It will not come again in our lifetimes."

Clinton, who in 1995 became the first sitting US president to visit the British-ruled province, has been a strong supporter of the Anglo-Irish peace drive that led in April to an accord between the feuding parties to end years of guerrilla strife.

Joined by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Clinton addressed members of the new Northern Ireland Assembly saying the real test would be the ability of the province's people to abandon the ways of the past.

Clinton, who later in the day was to visit the square in Omagh where a car bomb killed 28 and injured more than 200 last month, said: "There will be hard road ahead. The terror in Omagh was not the last bomb of the Troubles, it was the opening shot of the vicious attack on peace.

"The question is not whether there will be more bombs and more attempts to undo with violence the verdict of the ballot box. There may well be. The question is how will you react to it all, to the violence?"

Clinton urged Catholics and Protestants to set aside memories of the past and "lend your leaders the support they need to make the hard but necessary decisions... you voted for a future different from the past."

Even the venue for his speech, Waterfront Hall, is rich in symbolism. Formally opened last year, the unblemished structure has come to represent the hopes for a better future in a city scarred by strife.

The so-called "Good Friday agreement" signed on April 10 was reached shortly after Clinton brought key representatives of the rival factions to the White House and encouraged them to put aside their differences.

Although the US has gone out of its way to avoid a direct official role in the peace efforts, its behind-the-scenes efforts have helped prod the parties to break the stalemate.

Former senator George Mitchell, who attended Clinton's address and was welcomed warmly by the crowd, chaired the multi-party talks that led to the agreement.

US officials clearly were upbeat about the announcement earlier this week by Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, that it is renouncing violence and appointing a senior official to liaise with a commission designed to tackle the sensitive issue of disarming the warring factions.

Shortly after Air Force One arrived in Belfast from Moscow, where Clinton had summit talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, White House National Security Adviser Samuel Berger told reporters the US was delighted that Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams and Unionist David Trimble, appointed first minister of the 108-member assembly, would hold talks on Monday.

In London, meanwhile, Britain's drive to put renegade Irish guerrillas behind bars won parliamentary support after debate lasting until dawn.

The House of Commons swept aside some members' protests that the government was trying to bounce them into passing draconian anti-terror measures too quickly, giving the bill its final reading.

The bill approved overnight was to be debated by the House of Lords later yesterday before becoming law.

Prime Minister Tony Blair called parliament back from its summer break on Wednesday to consider the legislation, which makes it easier to convict people of belonging to outlawed Northern Irish groups, giving courts the right to rely on evidence given by a single senior police officer, and to regard an accused person's refusal to answer police questions as an indication of guilt.

US President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair applaud the speech of Northern Ireland Assembly First Minister David Trimble yesterday in Belfast. (Reuters)

Albright reports progress on Kosovo

By ROBERT H. REID

VIENNA (AP) – American diplomacy has produced a good first step toward ending the crisis in Kosovo, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said yesterday. Austria's foreign minister spoke of a "glimmer of hope" for a peaceful solution to violence in the Serbian province.

Albright stopped here on her way home from the US-Russian summit in Moscow for the first bilateral visit to Vienna by a US secretary of state.

She briefed Austrian Chancellor Viktor Klima and Foreign Minister Wolfgang Schuessel on the summit and diplomatic efforts in Kosovo, where ethnic Albanians are fighting for independence from Serbia, a part of Yugoslavia.

Albright said that during the US-Russian talks, Russian President Boris Yeltsin was "very much in charge during the meetings and directing the process," but added that Communist members of the Duma are increasing their strength.

On Kosovo, both Albright and the Austrians expressed encouragement over efforts by US special envoy Christopher Hill, who won an agreement in principle this week from Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and the main Kosovo Albanian leader, Ibrahim Rugova, for an interim accord granting self-rule to Kosovo's Albanian majority.

The accord, which has not yet been made final, falls short of the Albanian demand for full independence, but would be reviewed after about three years.

"We see this as a good procedural step forward," Albright told reporters.

"We want to make sure that the violence is ended and that there is action to let the humanitarian workers to be able to get in to deal with the over now 250,000 displaced people."

Albright also said that if force is required, "the nations that agree must be ready to act."

She said Russians and Americans both believe it is critical now for Milosevic to halt the fighting.

Speaking to reporters along with Albright, Schuessel said that "for the first time there is a glimmer of hope" in Kosovo.

But he cautioned: "Don't think that the solution is there. This is a small hope, but it is part of a diplomatic process."

During the Moscow summit, Albright said she and Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov had discussed the possibility of sending to Kosovo additional international monitors, "who by their numbers would be able to resist some of the pressures" that Serb security forces have imposed on international aid workers.

But she said she and Primakov did not specifically discuss Moscow's participation in a military "stabilization force" similar to the one enforcing the 1995 Dayton accords that ended the Bosnian War.

Kohl, Schroeder clash as German election race heats up

By TONY CZUCZKA

BONN (AP) – Gerhard Schroeder, the front runner in Germany's election race, yesterday branded Chancellor Helmut Kohl unfit for the future in one of the sharpest personal attacks on his opponent so far.

Less than a month before the September 27 national vote, the two candidates faced off in parliament in their only direct confrontation before Election Day.

Neither campaigner presented new ideas, but Kohl, 68, touted his experience as a statesman at a time of global uncertainty, while his younger, slicker rival presented himself as a force for moderate change and a fairer society.

Schroeder, 54, seemed bored as he sat impassively through Kohl's rambling 80-minute speech that focused heavily on his historic achievements, such as German unification.

When he took the floor after Kohl, the Social Democrat hit hard. "That was a speech about the past," he declared. "You are incapable of handling the future."

Pointing to Germany's 4.1 million jobless, he accused Kohl of breaking his promise to end unemployment when he first took power 16 years ago.

He lashed out at cuts in social and health programs passed by Kohl's center-right coalition, and accused his Christian Democrats of presiding over a widening gap between rich and poor – a gap that Schroeder vowed his Social Democrats would redress.

Damascus opens trade center in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Reuters) – Syria yesterday opened a trade center in Baghdad, a move seen by officials from the two former foes as a first step toward resuming diplomatic ties severed 18 years ago.

"This is an important step in the bilateral relationship between Iraq and Syria," Iraq's Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh said after opening the center. "This action represents the willingness of the two countries to enlarge bilateral relations and I think this is a good step toward this objective."

Head of Syria's free trade zones Khalid Raad said the center was "a step that would be followed by more steps."

He said an Iraqi trade center would open soon in Damascus.

Baghdad and Damascus, ruled by rival factions of the Arab Baath Party, cut their ties because of tension over the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war in which Syria backed Iran.

Relations have been improving since last year when both countries agreed to reopen their borders to encourage the flow of Syrian goods under Iraq's oil-for-food deal with the United Nations.

WORLD

in brief

French interior minister in coma after surgery

PARIS (AP) – French Interior Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement was in a coma yesterday after suffering a heart attack during surgery, officials said. The 59-year-old minister, in charge of the nation's police and security forces, suffered the heart attack during a gall bladder operation on Wednesday. State radio France Info reported Chevenement had a rare allergy to the anesthesia used during the surgery, causing temporary heart failure.

Clinton could face another independent counsel

WASHINGTON (AP) – US Attorney General Janet Reno is considering whether President Bill Clinton's 1996 campaign tried to evade spending limits by using so-called issue advertisements, legal sources said yesterday. Under the independent counsel law, Reno must decide by early next week if enough information exists to open a 90-day preliminary inquiry that could lead to appointment of a special prosecutor.

The Washington Post reported the president's private attorney, David Kendall, met with Justice Department officials Wednesday in an attempt to convince them no further investigation is warranted.

The newspaper said Kendall told the Justice Department that if a formal inquiry moves forward, however, it should be directed at the 1996 campaign organization rather than at Clinton himself.

Mandela backs military aid to Kabila's Congo

DURBAN, South Africa (Reuters) – South African President Nelson Mandela said regional leaders at a special summit yesterday unanimously backed the military intervention in Laurent Kabila's Congo by Angola, Zimbabwe, and Namibia.

In a significant shift from his attempts two weeks ago to negotiate an immediate cease-fire and troop standstill in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, he told a news conference he accepted Kabila's right to call for help in the face of a foreign invasion.

"It is quite reasonable when the legitimate head of a government of a country says: 'I have been invaded by a foreign force. Come and help me defend my country...' for the neighboring country to respond positively," Mandela said.

Hurricane Earl pounds US southeast

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (Reuters) – Hurricane Earl raged across the southeastern United States yesterday, generating 128 kph winds, driving rains, and a pounding surf that flooded coastal towns on the Florida panhandle. Earl, the second hurricane to strike the US southeast coast in eight days, pushed a wall of water from the Gulf of Mexico into low-lying barrier islands and villages along Florida's Big Bend before moving inland, dumping rain on four states and spawning tornadoes.

The US Coast Guard said two men were missing after two fishing vessels capsized south of Panama City, near where the hurricane went ashore. Florida Governor Lawton Chiles declared a disaster area across the Gulf coast, ordering state offices in at least 15 counties closed as crews moved into the streets to clean up and restore power to thousands of homes.

Strong quake shakes northern Japan, 10 hurt

TOKYO (AP) – A strong earthquake shook northern Japan yesterday, slightly injuring at least 10 people. There were no immediate reports of serious casualties or damage. The quake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.0 struck at 4:58 p.m. It was centered close to ground level near the rural town of Shizukuishi in Iwate Prefecture, roughly 510 kilometers north of Tokyo, the Meteorological Agency said. Several aftershocks later rocked the area, including one with a preliminary magnitude of 4.1, the agency said.

Japanese dies after having tea; poisoning likely

TOKYO (AP) – A man in central Japan who died after drinking canned tea at home likely was poisoned, adding to the string of poisonings gripping the country, police said yesterday. Also yesterday, a 21-year-old worker at a convenience store in Nagoya was rushed to the hospital after drinking canned apple juice from the store freezer, police said. Her illness was not critical, said a police official.

In the other poisoning, Ichijuro Nakazawa, 58, collapsed after drinking the tea at breakfast on Monday. He died at a hospital in Obusecho, prefectural police spokesman Shigehiro Ozaki said.

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Ledger of grief

The $1.25 billion settlement reached last month between Swiss banks and Jewish claimants may begin to close what US State Department negotiator Stuart Eizenstat has called "this lingering ledger of grief."

Closing this ledger does not just depend on the Swiss banks, but on Jewish leaders keeping sight of how this campaign began, and what the appropriate purpose of the court settlement should be.

For years, a handful of people banged at the doors of the Swiss banks, demanding that they investigate their claims regarding bank accounts "lost" during World War II. The first major institutional breakthrough was the mid-1996 formation of the Volker Committee, chaired by former US Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volker, whom the Swiss banks allowed to scour the records of dormant wartime accounts. A few months later, the first suits were filed in US Federal Court, leading to last month's settlement.

Though the amount of the settlement is now set, no one knows how the funds will be distributed or to whom. At the top of the pyramid are people whom the Volker Committee is able to match with specific accounts. These few thousand people will have their funds returned to them, with interest and adjusted for inflation.

Next come a much wider group – in the tens of thousands – who fit in one of the "classes" to be defined by the court.

The settlement funds will likely be distributed equally among each class, each of whom can show some connection to funds in Swiss banks, but not to a specific account.

Up to this point, the principle of restitution is being clearly applied. The scandalous stonewalling by the Swiss banks – hiding behind the very bank secrecy laws that led people to deposit their money there in the first place – will have finally ended.

More problematic, however, are the expectations that have built up among Jewish groups for wider funding to help Nazi victims in general, regardless of any demonstrable connection to Swiss banks.

These expectations began with wildly inflated figures regarding the value of the dormant accounts of Nazi victims, before anyone had been able to check the facts. As the Volker Committee has progressed with its work, these estimates have dropped substantially, but the expectation that organizations – as opposed to individuals – will benefit has persisted.

But US Federal Judge Edward Korman, who has the final say in the matter, could decide that all the restitution funds, aside from direct expenses associated with their distribution, will go to "certified claimants" – individuals who meet set criteria showing a connection to Swiss bank funds. There is no reason to believe that, after the fund is distributed to claimants, there will be any funds left over, even for the most worthwhile organizations.

It may seem unfortunate that groups such as Amcha, which provides psychological services to survivors and could do valuable work with the neediest Holocaust survivors in Central Europe – people called "double victims" because they suffered first under Nazism and then under communism – are not able to benefit from the restitution money.

But there is no reason why the project of returning bank deposits to their rightful owners should expand into another form of general war reparations. One court settlement cannot settle all the scores of World War II.

At the same time, the Swiss banks have already made a "goodwill gesture" by allocating SFr 270 million to a fund for "needy" Nazi victims. This fund, created to provide funds quickly to the dwindling population of survivors, has been available since March 1, 1997, and is not restricted to those with a direct connection to Swiss banks. Yet both in the US and Israel, the distribution of these funds has been problematic, to say the least.

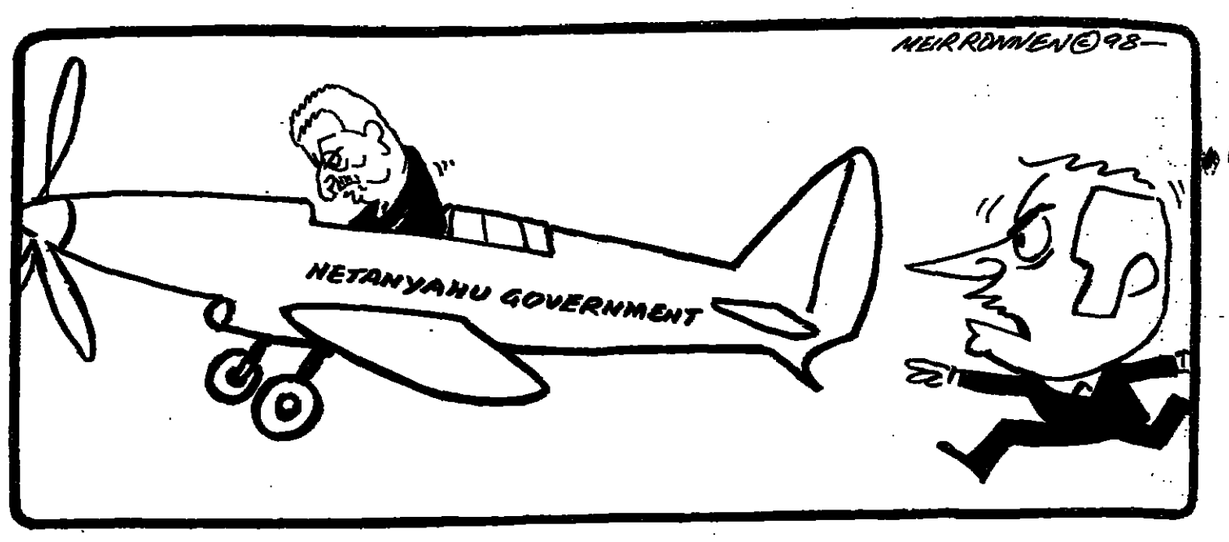
In the US, Jewish organizations have refused to establish a measurable "needs test" for the Swiss humanitarian fund, and the processing of applications has fallen to the New York State Banking Department, rather than to Jewish groups. Another portion of the fund, $59 million, remains unallocated to Israeli survivors over a year later because of disputes over its distribution.

It is obviously a tremendous shame that, after arguing for the urgent plight of aging Holocaust survivors, Jewish groups have not been able to distribute the humanitarian funds quickly and efficiently to those who need it most.

The ministerial committee appointed on Monday by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, ostensibly to put an end to bureaucratic wrangling over restitution funds, should assure that the Israeli portion of the humanitarian fund be distributed immediately.

It should also recall that the purpose of the Swiss bank settlement is restitution, not reparations, and that there is no reason to try to divert funds from that purpose.

"Hey – go switch off your own engines!"



A year for self-reflection

EHUD BARAK

The month of Elul is upon us: It is the season of *Slihot*, a time for soul-searching.

There is never a dull moment in the annals of the Jewish people. Each year is a new beginning and no year is like the previous one. Each year is noted for a particular event. Each year its own fate. This year should be one of self-reflection. This year we must examine the fate of our national identity.

The building of our nation and the building of our heritage, the wheat fields and the killing fields, sacred friendships and vision which has been blinded, a family to which new life is born, and another which has lost a child, a clenching of teeth, a digging in of nails, the blood and the fire, another piece of land, another grain of independence – all these, and much more, have prevented us from taking a good look at ourselves. They have pushed off the crucial question: And for what purpose ?

How loftily we portray the struggle for the revival of the Jewish people is of no consequence, nor does it matter how wonderfully others view it; we will not be able to sense true victory if we do not study the reason for our existence.

After rubbing the dust of revival from our eyes and removing the blood of war from our nails, the picture in its entirety will become clear. As our physical independence becomes clearer, our national identity is revealed – a national identity which is the closest possible reflection of our Jewish heritage.

The most fundamental feeling to which I, as a Jewish leader, repeatedly return is one of heavy responsibility. I feel that the very essence of each and every link is in being part of a chain. I understand this responsibility on two levels: horizontally, a sense of interpersonal-community identity, and vertically, the sense of identity created by the on-going generations.

The constant tension between the universal spirit and the original Jewish soul is the key to our unique national identity

It is this sense of responsibility which led me to embark on a dialogue with the religious community, unlimited in time, in an effort to draw up a new social order which will redefine the relationships between the various streams within Judaism. In this dialogue, each side is open and attentive to the needs and problems of the other.

This sense of responsibility and my duty as a leader have led me to take this process upon myself. To create a pact which is entrenched in the very soul of the Jewish people and simultaneously believe that we have a place of honor in the future of the family of nations. We have no choice – we must recognize this.

The real achievement of these meetings is in their very existence, but only an on-going dialogue will imbue us with the spirit of the hope for unity. Only concerted efforts at maintaining the dialogue between the various streams will help us succeed in building a society capable of living at peace with itself.

AS A JEW and an Israeli I am proud to say Orthodox Judaism, in its amorphous form, is an essential part of our national identity. In an era in which the world has become one small village, and distant cultures merge via fiber-optic communications, it is of supreme importance to preserve the original. The constant tension between the universal spirit and the original Jewish soul, sheltering beneath the canopy of the Torah, is the key to our unique national identity.

Judaism has always known how to adapt itself to the spirit of the time and the period. "The words of God live." We must learn to balance authentic Judaism with the changing, dynamic world.

National Jewish identity is not just the choice of good, it is the ability to choose a life which has meaning.

There is no meaning to life without responsibility. The responsibility for tomorrow is as important as the responsibility for today and yesterday. We will not manage to harness the future for our benefit if we forget the past.

Existence for existence's sake is insufficient. Only the knowledge that by our very tenacity we are serving something greater than our selves is the essence of our being.

This soul-searching, on the eve of the period of *Slihot*, requires that each and every one of us thinks every day of the way in which he promotes the glory of Israel and how he has harmed it. The only way to preserve the eternity of the Jewish people is to remember that we have one destiny and that we must rid ourselves of barriers which lead to alienation. Beyond these barriers lies the unknown, and beyond the unknown lies the enemy – fear.

And so I say to you, with full responsibility, that if we allow fear to conduct the relationships between us, this will be the beginning of rift. If fear of the enemy is based on an element of logic, our fear of each other is certain recipe for self-destruction.

In the *Ethics of the Fathers*, we learn: "Every person in Israel has a portion in the world to come, as it says: 'And Your people are all righteous, they will inherit the earth.'"

If the Jew with the *streimel* is unable to hold a conversation with his brother, his own flesh and blood, the soldier with the helmet, if the boy who has turned his back on religion fears his brother, his own kith and kin, the yeshiva student, our existence here is meaningless, has no purpose, and does not even bear a semblance of Jewish revival.

The writer is chairman of the Labor Party.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FIRST-CLASS POLICE

Sir, – I was the recent victim of a violent crime. My husband and family were out of town at the time of the break-in and I was faced with an armed criminal. Although the circumstances were potentially life-threatening, I came out of the situation outwardly unharmed.

I would like to commend the efforts and behavior of the Jerusalem police force at every stage of their response and subsequent investigation of the rape/robbery case.

From the moment I put in the call, they were polite, responsive and caring. The uniformed officers, detectives and captains who came to my home were all highly professional but also markedly compassionate and considerate of my physical and emotional state.

Concerned as to my immediate welfare, they asked if I had a friend I could stay with that night. If not, offered one of the detectives, "You can stay at our house."

When I asked the captain when I could return to my home, he said, "You could even stay here tonight, but I just don't want you to be alone." That level of care and consideration was consistent throughout the case.

During the investigation and pursuit of the perpetrator, their telephone calls to me were always polite and reassuring, each call prefaced by "First of all, how are you feeling?"

Any officer I spoke to made it clear that no matter what, no matter where, they were available to assist me. This was reinforced by the fact that the detectives gave me their mobile phone numbers in addition to their station numbers.

Ultimately the criminal was caught and incarcerated. When the police captain called to inform me of the news, he added, "Now you and your friends in the area can have the sense of security you deserve."

I know the police have been given bad press and that some people have found them lacking in compassion and consideration, but from my experience I think they are first-class, both personally and professionally.

NAME WITHHELD UPON REQUEST

A MAGEN DAVID CAMPAIGN

Sir, – In recent weeks the press and other media have paid much attention to the crosses placed by certain groups in Poland around the death camp of Auschwitz.

In the circumstances, it may not be without interest to note that in many Jewish circles, including Jews who do not believe in Jesus as the messiah but consider him a poor Jew who was crucified like thousands of others by the Romans, the desire is gaining ground to commemorate these victims by placing a Magen David ("Star of David") at the traditional site of Jesus' burial, known as the "Holy Sepulchre."

The initiative, which so far has had little publicity, may encounter some opposition as well as objective difficulties since all arrangements at the Holy Sepulchre are (unlike the Auschwitz perimeter) subject to strict status quo regulations. It is, nevertheless, hoped that the Israeli government will put its weight behind this proposal.

PROF. R.J. ZWI WERBLOWSKY,
Martin Buber Professor Emeritus of Comparative Religion,
The Hebrew University.

Jerusalem.

THE SAME SIDE

Sir, – On the August 14 opinion page of *The Jerusalem Post*, was an interesting juxtaposition; Jonathan Rosenblum, champion of the oppressed Orthodox/haredi community; and next to him, Rabbi Michael Marmur speaking from the dispossessed Reform community.

What I heard in the white space between the two columns was: There is division between Jews, it lies between those who care about Judaism and those who do not.

Obviously, these two care! I say they are together on the same side.

YORAM GETZLER,
Association for Jewish Renewal in Israel.

Jerusalem.

Russian roulette

MOSHE ZAK

The day after he returned from Israel, Gen. Nikolai Kovalyov was ousted as head of the Russian Federal Security Service.

While here, he had met the prime minister and defense minister, without imagining that as he discussed intelligence issues and the war against terrorism, someone in the Kremlin was planning his dismissal.

Not only the head of the security service, but also the leaders of the government in Moscow don't know what each day holds in store.

Even US President Bill Clinton, who visited Moscow this week, had trouble getting a clear prediction from his experts on what could be expected to happen in Russia in the near future. Although Gen. Alexander Lebed, a prominent figure in Russian politics, claimed this week that the Russian army is "in a revolutionary mood," he avoided stating explicitly that the army is liable to start a revolution if the pandemonium continues.

Only one financial baron, Jewish as it happens, dared twice to publicly predict a change of prime minister. This was Boris Berezovsky, whose forecasts were correct. Only 24 hours before President Boris Yeltsin's announcement that prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin had been fired and replaced by Sergei Kiriyenko, the Jewish tycoon announced in a television interview that the government would be replaced in a day or two.

And it was the same Jew (who lived in Israel and received Israeli citizenship five years ago) who first announced Chernomyrdin's return to his position. But this power broker had to admit this week that "meantime no Jew can reach a high post in Russia because this may strengthen the ultra-nationalists."

Today everyone offers alternatives: either a dictator will take over the country or Yeltsin will have to resign. In other words no one can guarantee what will be the outcome if Yeltsin dissolves the Russian parliament.

Current developments in Moscow are liable to influence both of Israel's spheres of interest: the Middle East and the Jews

It's possible that from a long-range American perspective, Prof. Richard Pipes was right to advise the administration to let the Russians solve their crisis on their own. Pipes, who was president Reagan's adviser on the USSR, was right in his assessment that the US didn't need to court the USSR, which was on the point of collapse.

But Israel has to take the short-range perspective: a long drawn-out crisis in Russia, political pandemonium and economic hardship, is liable to damage our interests right now. Not only because we are accustomed to look at "the bear and the Jewish problem," but because the current developments are liable to influence immediately both of Israel's spheres of interest: the Middle East and the Jews.

FIRSTLY, a chaotic administration in a nuclear power is liable to push it toward irresponsible steps with regards to the supply of technology and components for the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction to Middle Eastern countries.

Secondly, there are hundreds of Jewish multimillionaires in Moscow today, some of them hyperactive in politics, when Russian soldiers can be seen (on American television) digging through the garbage after not being paid for months. In a crisis, they are liable to become the target of desperate actions by the disadvantaged, and also draw fire toward the Jews without millions.

The great concern over a breakdown in Moscow and sales of non-conventional weapons to countries in the region doesn't date from the devaluation of the ruble and the economic collapse in Russia. Even earlier Israel conducted negotiations with Russia, with diplomatic assistance from the US, against the supply of technology and components for the manufacture of long-range missiles to Iran.

The Russians promised both Israel and the US to stop any aid by Russian companies and scientists. Israel even told the Russians that the Israel Electric Corporation would stop its negotiations with Gazprom on the purchase of Russian natural gas if aid to Iran was not stopped.

Later Moscow announced that it would put on trial Russian companies who breached instructions concerning aid in weapons manufacture. The impression given was that while the Russian government was trying to comply with US and Israeli requests, it was not powerful enough to overcome the companies and the smugglers.

This situation is liable to get worse if the chaos in Russia increases. Hunger for dollars is liable to make many Russians trade in dangerous weapons with unstable rulers and terrorist organizations. The international conventions to restrict the proliferation of non-conventional weapons presupposed that a great power like Russia would behave in a responsible manner and wouldn't allow dangerous weapons to fall into the hands of unsettled countries.

Chaos in Russia cuts the ground under the feet of the existing world order. This is a source of danger and concern for Israel.

As for the Jewish millionaires, who are liable to be harmed by a violent revolutionary outbreak, experts claim that there is no cause for concern, since among the critics of Yeltsin's associate Boris Berezovsky is another Jew. Boris Nemtsov, who used to be deputy prime minister. Nemtsov has said in a Russian economic journal: "He is the modern Rasputin; he has bewitched Yeltsin, and you know that the czar's Rasputin couldn't be stopped."

But hundreds of Jewish tycoons in Moscow are identified with Yeltsin, and when he falls, as seems imminent, they are liable to be hurt and with them other Jews.

Seventy-five years ago David Ben-Gurion was surprised to find rich Jews under Communist rule. In a report he sent to the executive committee of the Histadrut in 1923, he wrote, "I have no doubt that we can raise a greater sum here [in Russia] than in America."

Since then many administrations have come and gone, and many new multi-millionaires have appeared. Their ability to adjust rapidly to changes of regime is also one of the causes of their riches, which would arouse envy even in normal times. In the present chaos this envy is liable to become a volcanic eruption.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

5 years ago: On September 4, 1933, *The Palestine Post* published a lengthy report by Gershon Agron, the newspaper's founder and first editor, on the recent deliberations of the 18th Zionist Congress which was held in Prague, and in particular on the conflict between the Labor and Revisionist representatives. Agron concluded that Revisionists might soon find themselves outside the pale of the Zionist movement.

25 years ago: On September 4, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the Labor Party Secretariat by 78 votes for, and none against, officially endorsed the Galili Summary of Policy for the Territories for the next four years. The summary allowed private individuals and companies to purchase land beyond the "Green Line" in those cases where the State Lands Authority could not. The summary had also explained that as peace was not around the corner, Israel was obliged to improve the people's lot in the area under its control.

Alexander Zvielli

هكذا من الاصل

Why I went on strike

DAVID GRANIEWITZ

Over the past couple of days, it has come to my notice that I must be one of the most hated people in the country. No, I'm not a potential suicide-bomber. Neither am I a cabinet minister nor manager of the Maccabi Tel Aviv football club. I am a teacher.

(I was tempted to qualify that last statement with the adverb "merely," as, judging from remarks that I have been hearing of late and the attitude to teachers in general, this once-proud profession has ceased to command respect from the society it sets out to serve.)

Even worse, I am a teacher on strike, and what's more I have the audacity to do so after a two-month summer break.

So, I expect that it is incumbent on me to deal with some FAQs (frequently asked questions) about the strike:

1) Why are you striking? For money of course.

2) Why are you striking at the beginning of the school year? Well, striking during the vacation would have been fairly pointless, wouldn't it?

3) What am I supposed to do with my kids? Shouldn't you be asking; "Why are my children losing valuable study time?"

4) Why is all this being done at the last minute? Shouldn't you be asking the Education and Finance ministries that question?

5) Do you agree with the strike? Ah, you've got me there, this one's not so simple to answer.

The strike is the most formidable weapon in the workers' armory, and the withdrawal of labor is regarded as a legitimate action in every civilized country today. However, should teachers be regarded as all other workers? Dealing with children every day, we are responsible not only for their academic progress, but also for their health and well-being. Does this mean that, ethically, we should not have the right to strike?

If this were the issue in question, I would be pleased to deal with it. But from what I hear around me, most parents are concerned with how their own lives rather than their children's are affected by the strike.

As a parent myself, I can't really blame them. At the start of the school year, I am more occupied with the logistics of getting my children to school and how much it's all going to cost me than what they're actually going to do when they get there.

Yet if the educational system is regarded as a way of allowing parents to go to work without the burden of having to look after their offspring and teachers as nothing more than baby-sitters with diplomas, then, at least on this account, my pangs of conscience for striking have been assuaged somewhat.

But what of the teacher's lot? Is it not a happy one? Financially, the job has never been lucrative. I manage, as my wife earns more than I do.

It seems that a teacher's salary is based on the assumption that it will be the secondary one in the family. A colleague and friend of mine whose wife is also a teacher recently retrained as a technical writer, as they simply couldn't get by on their combined salaries.

What is the alternative? Unmotivated teachers not doing their jobs properly because they don't feel they're appreciated?

Teachers in general are a naive bunch. This stems from the fact that many start off with high ideals about changing society through education and neglect to ensure that their own rights are being respected.

In addition, a teacher's wage slip is as decipherable as the Rosetta Stone. It consists of numerous factors which make it hard for the teacher to know whether he/she is being paid the correct amount. I, like so many of my colleagues, have discovered only after a while that my paycheck was wrong on several occasions. Getting what I was owed often proved to be a Sisyphean task.

It is for this reason that we have to rely on our union representatives to make sure that we're not being given a raw deal, and we have to trust their decision to strike as a last resort. We have to believe that they are doing it for our own good and not for their own self-aggrandizement.

As for the issues at hand, the idea of proper remuneration for extracurricular activities should not be so far-fetched. Why, for instance, should a teacher going on a four-day school trip have to pay more money for a baby-sitter to help her out during that time than she will get paid herself for doing a job which demands a high degree of responsibility for 24 hours each day?

TEACHERS go on strike with a heavy heart. Each day of the school year lost can never be made up. But what is the alternative? Unmotivated teachers not doing their jobs properly because they don't feel they're appreciated? Ideals don't pay off mortgages.

People often cite the perks of the job, the long vacations, as justification for the teachers' wage packet. I feel that a complete reorganization of the school year, cutting down on some vacation time, is necessary.

Nevertheless, it must be said that during the school year, a teacher is constantly on the go. We are paid according to the amount of hours that we stand up in front of a class, but our job doesn't end when we exit the school gates. We take our work home with us, not only in the form of preparation and marking.

Teaching is an emotionally taxing occupation. It is impossible to shake off the events of the day when you come home. I find myself constantly going over everything that happened. Just ask a teacher's spouse about home life during term time.

Add to this, parental interference, the columns in local newspapers to which pupils can contribute often fabricated stories about their teachers to tarnish their reputations, oversized classes, under-sized classrooms, bad scheduling of lessons, the threat of violence and the lack of school equipment, to name but some of the hazards of the job, then the long vacations can perhaps be taken in some type of proportion.

A recent survey reported on the news claimed that around 60 percent of pupils expressed dissatisfaction with the level of their teachers. Who was asked and what questions were put to them – we were not told.

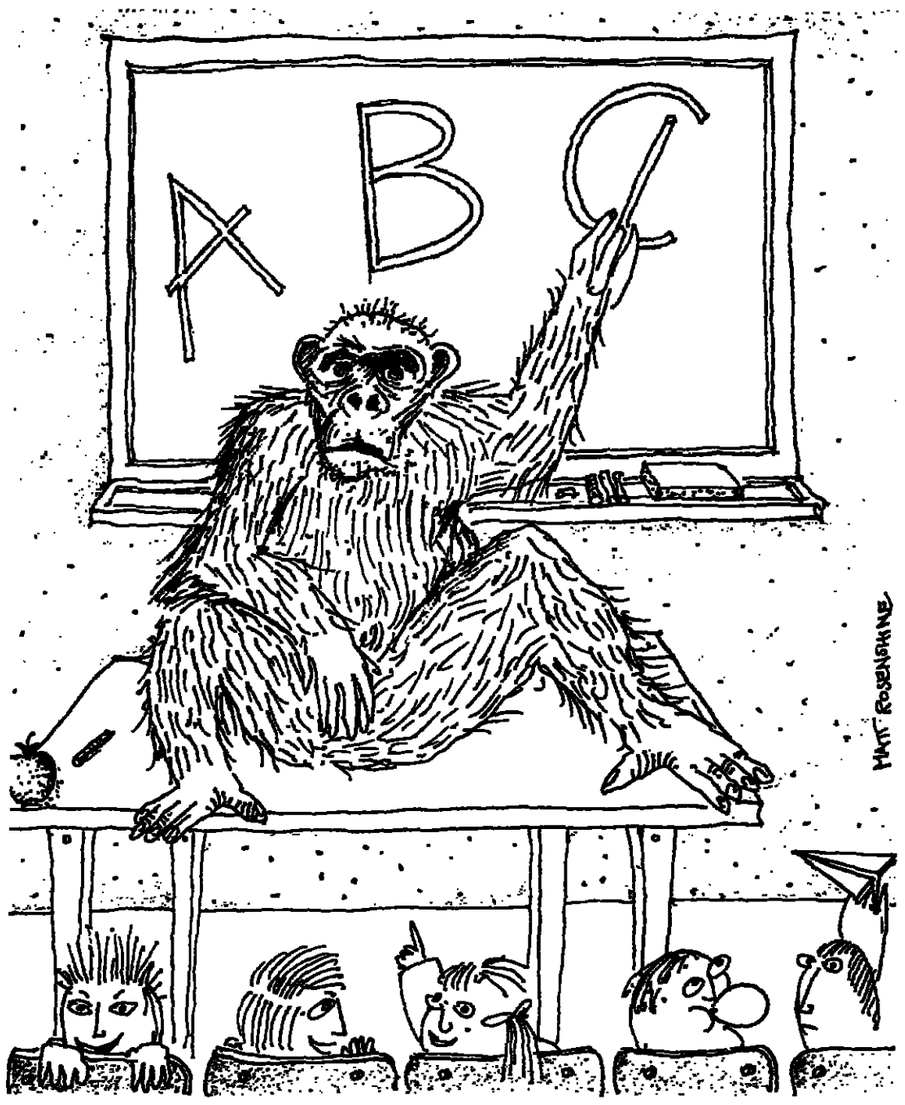
That little snippet of information just brought home to me the feeling that teachers are the cannon fodder of the educational system. We are blamed for all its faults, when in reality we rarely make any important decisions and we are expected to go about our duties with so many factors working against us.

I, for one, would gladly relinquish any pay rise if I could be sure that the money saved would be channeled into education in the right directions; for instance, reducing class size, hiring more teachers, allocating free text books to pupils, and in general easing the financial burden of "free" education. Or even for the chance to have a say, together with my colleagues, in how my schools' budgets are to be spent.

If teachers were consulted, then it might be possible to avoid spending millions on educational projects that turn out to be white elephants.

Perhaps in this way, teachers might feel that the true reward for their labors was the feeling that they had done their job well. Until then, I would advise anyone complaining about teachers to remember the old adage: "If you pay peanuts, you get monkeys."

The writer teaches junior high and high school English in Jerusalem.



Back to school

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

Well the children have all returned to school, and for the first time in 18 years, my wife and I are contemplating a home with no babies underfoot or toddlers to be picked up at nursery school.

Not everyone, of course, has been so fortunate. While haredi schools opened across the country last week, after a three-week summer vacation, the scheduled September 1 opening of the public school year did not take place due to a nationwide teachers' strike.

The immunity of the religious sector to this sort of strike is, by now, an old story. Religious hospitals, for instance, are largely unaffected by doctors' and nurses' strikes. The late Klausenberger Rebbe insisted that every employment contract in Netanya's Laniado Hospital, which he built, include an explicit undertaking not to strike.

If religious teachers do not strike, it is not because they are all driving Cadillacs, or don't need the money to support their families, or because their working conditions are optimal. In fact, salaries are often late, classes of 35 to 40 students are common, and many classrooms are in trailers or other makeshift accommodations. Typically, there is one day-long school trip a year, as well as a few outings to local parks, for which the teachers are paid nothing extra.

Heder rebbes don't strike for the same reason that religious doctors and nurses don't: the fear that by striking they would be endangering lives. For them, Torah is not another academic subject – not even a very important subject – it is life itself. A day lost from Torah study cannot be compensated by a day added to the end of the school year. The potential growth of that day is lost forever.

The obligation to teach children Torah is derived from the words in the first paragraph in the *Shema*: "You shall teach [these words] to your son." The unique gift of parents to their children is life, and similarly the transmission of Torah – the gift of spiritual life – is described as one from parent to child.

Religious Jews do not conceive of Torah as a body of knowledge apart from oneself. The true measure of one's Torah learning is not mastery of a technical body of knowledge, but the extent that it transforms those who study it as human beings. Torah learning that does not lead to action and change one as a person is not the real thing.

"TORAH as life" is the guiding principle of the religious community, not just words to which it pays lip service. Intersession in the yeshivot is often referred to as "between life," and it is unthinkable that it should pass without its own fixed times for Torah learning. Every morning during the summer vacation, the shul across from the street from me was filled with yeshiva students – some of them no older than 10 – learning.

And the same was true in shuls throughout every religious neighborhood. Hundreds of young men could be found in the Mirrer Yeshiva *beit midrash* in the mornings throughout the vacation, and during Elul one can find the *beit midrash* of the Hebron Yeshiva in Jerusalem filled at 2 a.m. with students learning as if it were the middle of the day.

It's not that these young men know nothing else than learning Torah. During the summer vacation, they could be spotted touring all over the country during the afternoons.

Whenever I run into an old friend from yeshiva, the first question is inevitably "Where are you learning?" not "What are you doing?" If I point out that I'm pushing 50 pretty hard and that there are a lot of mouths to be fed and weddings to be made, the question changes only slightly to "What are you learning?" Failure to answer that question immediately or to be able to discuss the topic with which one is currently struggling is an admission of spiritual death.

The vibrancy of a religious community is measured to a large degree by the extent to which its members set aside regular, daily times for Torah study. In Har Nof alone there must be close to 20 daily *daf yomi* Talmud study groups. The earliest begins at 5:30 a.m., and they continue until late at night.

I don't even know the last names of many of those in the morning Talmud class I've been attending for years, see no one in the group socially, and don't wear the same kind of *yarmulke*. And yet, in some strange way, I feel as close to the members as to almost anyone I know. If someone is missing or has to drop out for any reason, his absence is felt by everybody in the group, and there is a palpable love for our teacher. What binds us is the recognition that for each of us, the hour spent learning together before work is the most important hour of the day.

For those accustomed to academic libraries, the din of a Torah study hall requires a good deal of adjustment. The decibel level of a large *beit midrash* is probably matched only by the trading pit of a major exchange. And in both cases for the same reason: The participants view the stakes as the essence of life. For some – money; for us – Torah.

On double standards

MARK A. HELLER

The recent American cruise-missile attacks on suspected terrorist sites in Afghanistan and Sudan provoked widespread expressions of outrage in the Moslem world and considerable breast-beating by Western analysts more concerned with how things look than with how they are.

No one, of course, expects that isolated strikes like these will solve the problem of terrorism; the idea that there is some "magic bullet" divorced from politics has long been discredited. But the political consequences of these strikes – automatic Moslem solidarity with the targets and angry denunciations of Western "double standards" – continue to be seen as inevitable and altogether normal.

Indeed, there is a certain sameness to the pattern. Every time a non-Moslem party gets involved in a conflict with a Moslem adversary, it is accused of applying "double standards" based on primordial anti-Moslem prejudice, while those Moslems who rush to the defense of the Moslem party pretend to be acting, not out of primordial solidarity, but rather out of principled commitment to some universal moral norms.

This happened in connection with the American response to Libyan support for terrorism in the 1980s, in connection with the response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and, even more so, to the post-1991 sanctions and inspection regime, in connection with the response to Iran's attempts to develop long-range missiles and weapons of mass destruction, and now in connection with the response to terrorist activity based in Afghanistan and Sudan.

In every instance, the explanation for reprisals or containment is "double standards," as if it were impossible for these actions to be grounded in anything other than a clash of civilizations whose major fault-line runs between the Moslems of the world and everybody else. Indeed, the accusations of anti-Moslem double standards are repeated so often and so insistently that the actions of Moslem governments or other political forces are themselves ignored, except in some of those instances (as in 1990) when the victims of the actions are other Moslems.

So in the complaints about the alleged double standard that imposes sanctions and intrusive inspections on Iraq but ignores Israel or India, it is of no consequence that Iraq has waged two unprovoked wars of aggression against its neighbors and brutally repressed its domestic dissidents and ethnic minorities. By the same logic, one might equally condemn as a double standard the domestic laws that lock up criminals but let everyone else go freely about their business.

Every time a non-Moslem party gets involved in a conflict with a Moslem adversary, it is accused of applying 'double standards'

Does this mean that there are no double standards? Of course, there are. Does it mean that Moslems are only its victims, but not also its perpetrators? Every time the charge of double standards is raised, one is reminded of the negotiations leading to the breakup of the Indian Empire.

According to Lord Louis Mountbatten, the last British viceroy, the Moslems would settle for no outcome other than partition. "We must have Pakistan," said Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the leader of the Moslem League, because unless the outnumbered Moslems have their own state, they will be swamped in a Hindu sea. But when Mountbatten pointed out that the same principle indicated partition of Kashmir and Bengal to protect outnumbered Hindus there, Jinnah's answer was, "That's different."

SINCE then, Moslem solidarity has led to endless demands for self-determination and independence for Palestinians, support for Kashmiris and Bosnians struggling for their national rights, and defense of Moslem minorities in non-Moslem states ranging from the Philippines to Yugoslavia.

But what about the political disenfranchisement of non-Moslems in Malaysia and the violent scapegoating of the Chinese in Indonesia? Where were Moslem voices 30 years ago, during the Biafran war for independence against a Nigeria dominated by Moslem northerners? When was the last time that the Arab League criticized Iraq (and not just Saddam), which for over 50 years has used every means, including weapons of mass destruction, to repress the Kurdish struggle for self-determination and independence? And when was the last time it denounced Sudan, the same innocent victim of American aggression, for its genocidal war against Christian and animist blacks who seek nothing more than what are seen as the natural rights of the Palestinians or the Kashmiris or the Bosnians?

There are lots of reasons to question the wisdom or efficacy of the counter-terrorism and counter-proliferation policies followed by the US and other countries. In some cases, these policies may even involve what look like double standards. Strictly speaking, they really are double standards only if different practices are applied in precisely the same circumstances, and the circumstances are never precisely the same; even North Korea's Kim Jong-Il looks like a choirboy compared to Saddam. Nevertheless, they are sometimes similar enough to raise legitimate questions.

But while double standards do exist, they are hardly an American monopoly. Everyone is guilty to some extent: the West, the East, and Israel, too (whose transgressions include applying entirely different "Jewish" and "Arab" systems of law and order in the West Bank and Gaza and denouncing other societies' fundamentalists while coddling its own).

But "everyone" includes Moslems, and it is therefore not a little jarring to hear those who are among the most active practitioners of the double standard, from cheap rabble-rousers to slick spin doctors, whining about being its primary victim.

Finally, while international relations may be a desert of hypocrisy, it is important to point out that there is still at least one oasis of commitment to universal standards, one valiant struggler against the clash of civilizations. That beacon of enlightenment is Libya, which has just awarded the Muammar Gaddafi Prize for Human Rights to Fidel Castro.

Debunking Nasserism

GERALD M. STEINBERG

Historical revisionism, attacks on national myths, and assaults on sacred icons are not limited to Israel.

In Egypt, Nobel Prize-winning novelist Naguib Mahfouz has triggered an intense debate by questioning the legacy of Gamal Abdel Nasser.

According to Mahfouz, Nasser was a dictator who led Egypt to social and economic disaster. Instead of antagonizing the West and goading Israel, Mahfouz argues that if Nasser had opened Egypt to economic development and democracy, Egypt might now be the leader of the Arab world and the Middle East.

In 1952, after the Free Officers overthrew the corrupt Egyptian monarchy and proclaimed a new era in Cairo, David Ben-Gurion publicly extended "a hand of friendship" and offered the new leadership a package which included compensation for refugees, concessions along the border, and a land corridor to Jordan. However, Nasser rejected rapprochement, emphasized preparations (including employment of ex-Nazi German scientists) for the "next war with Israel," and adopted an anti-Western policy.

Under Nasser, the state was in total control of society, thereby closing the door to economic development or democracy in any form. In his effort to become the undisputed leader of the Arab world, he destabilized Jordan, Lebanon and other states in the region.

In 1955, the Egyptians acquired advanced weapons from Czechoslovakia (approved, of course, by Moscow), and in 1956, Nasser triumphantly nationalized the Suez Canal, taunting the British and French.

The Egyptian forces were trounced, although Nasser was saved by the political intervention of the Soviet Union, with the acquiescence of US president Dwight Eisenhower.

In 1967, Nasser abruptly evicted the UN buffer troops in the Sinai, deployed his army along the border, and closed the Red Sea to Israeli shipping. His extreme rhetoric and detachment from the implications of his words and military moves led Egypt into another disaster, even more catastrophic than the 1956 war. However, for four decades, the myth of Nasser as a great hero has gone unquestioned in Egypt.

Now, for the first time, Egyptians who read Mahfouz's autobiography or the excerpts in the press will have to consider the view that the nationalization and the Suez war that followed were not Egypt's greatest triumph, but rather "a victory by... media and propaganda."

The novelist tells his readers that on the military side, Egypt was defeated and on the political side, the long-term loss was even greater, because it put Egypt into direct conflict with the West.

MAHFOUZ has plenty of critics, and the Egyptian press has printed many comments since *Naguib Mahfouz, Pages from His Memoirs* was published a few months ago. However, to their credit, some reviewers and readers also support his analysis and praise him for honesty and bravery.

As Mahfouz noted in an interview, "These were events which we all lived through, and whether they were right or wrong, they are now history from which we should learn."

If, indeed, some Egyptians are willing to consider his words seriously, they could take the lead in changing the stagnant and corrupt economy, and in introducing democracy, allowing Egypt to make up for the lost decades.

This debate also has important implications for present Egyptian policy and for President Hosni Mubarak in particular. Mubarak is far from charismatic, but has ruled Egypt for 17 years.

In many ways, Mubarak's Egypt is mired in many of the after-effects of Nasserism. Vested interests and bureaucratic inertia have blocked substantial change, and the economy and political process are still controlled by the state.

In its foreign policy, despite the peace treaty, the policy of "cold peace" is unquestioned, and the anti-Western and anti-Israeli chip-on-the-shoulder remains. The Egyptian intellectual and political elite's continuing rejection of contacts with Israelis, and its contribution to hostile and often absurd propaganda, is a throwback to the Nasserist period.

Fearing a loss of status, Cairo's policy makers, many of whom began their careers under Nasser, block improvement in relations with Israel and regional economic cooperation. Egypt, perhaps more than anyone else, has the most to gain through such initiatives, but is again the main victim of its own policies.

In addition, the Mubarak government has pressed the Palestinians, and Yasser Arafat in particular, to take a tough line in negotiations with Israel. In this way, Egypt has demonstrated its power in a negative sense, as at the height of Nasser's era, but has been unable to make a positive contribution to the process.

Perhaps, one day, Egypt will heed Mahfouz's call for democracy and acceptance of mutual coexistence with Israel. The main beneficiaries would be the Egyptians themselves. In the meantime, by triggering this public debate, and questioning the myth of Nasserism, Mahfouz has made an important contribution toward these goals.

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TRAVEL WITH THE EXPERTS

Treasury presents plan for cutting NIS 2.2 billion from budget

By NINA GILBERT

Cutting government support and the implementation of efficiency measures in the areas of defense, education, health, the elderly, and agriculture are the Treasury's main recommendations for achieving NIS 2.2 billion in cuts in the 1999 state budget.

In presenting the proposals yesterday, Finance Ministry Director-General Benzion Zilberfarb said the budget is aimed at "supporting growth" in the economy.

"This budget framework must be kept in order to protect the economy and limit the influence of world economic turmoil," he said.

Budget director David Milgrom said the Treasury made cuts of NIS 2.2b. so the government could have NIS 2.3b. to spend on strategic needs and growth-generation projects, in accordance with its decision last month.

The 1999 budget is set at NIS 173.8b. to achieve a budget deficit target of two percent of gross domestic product, with low inflation helping cut government expenditure. Total expenditure, including debt repayment, totals NIS 206.3b.

The Treasury has proposed growth-generating projects worth NIS 500 million, leaving the rest of the NIS 2.3b. to the discretion of the cabinet, which will begin discussing how to spend the budget on Sunday.

"The ministers have extra spending demands of NIS 12b. which they will bring before the cabinet," Milgrom said.

The Treasury's proposal for investment in growth includes NIS 300m. for infrastructure, NIS 50m. for research and development, NIS 50m. for water infrastructure, and NIS 85m. for training workers.

Milgrom said the extra R&D funds are in addition to a NIS 200m. increase in the R&D budget.

He also explained that despite the NIS 400m. cut in non-operational areas, the defense budget would increase by NIS 500m. in 1999 for strategic needs, based on previous commitments. At the same time, he said talks are continuing with the defense establishment.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman (left) confers with his director-general, Benzion Zilberfarb, before the Treasury announced its plan for NIS 2.2 billion in budget cuts. (Flash 90)

The Treasury proposals include:

• A cut of NIS 400m. from Defense Ministry's non-operational activities. This includes freezing building plans; implementing efficiency measures in headquarters; reducing in grants of early retirement; a cut in procurement trips abroad; merging ministry offices in Europe; and reducing activities of the New York mission. The Treasury also wants the Defense Ministry to force employers to pay for gas masks for foreign workers.

• A NIS 50m. cut for the Education Ministry, mainly from teachers' enrichment courses; efficiency measures; personnel cuts; and merging district offices. Another NIS 100m. via a cut of 25,000 classroom hours a week. The Treasury said it found that part of the school hours are not reaching the students and recommended a boost in supervision of use of school hours. Another NIS 20m. cut from boarding schools and NIS 30m. from the support and purchase budget. The Treasury also said the long-school day law costs too much and wants a gradual implementation in selective way.

• In the Religious Affairs Ministry, a NIS 32m. cut in support for yeshiva students out of a budget of NIS 1b. a year. In its report, the Treasury also noted that the 130 municipal rabbis salaries cost country NIS 45m., as there are two rabbis in every city of over 6,000 people. Each city rabbi costs NIS 350,000 a year. The aim is to cut NIS 12m. by not automatically having two rabbis in each city. The Treasury also called for efficiency measures in religious councils, noting that each of 50 deputy religious council head gets NIS 34,000 a month.

• In the Interior Ministry, a cut of NIS 100m. from local authorities to be offset by raising tax collection.

• In the National Insurance Institute, a cut of NIS 50m. in annual budget for helping the elderly receive personal care, since the number of people entitled to these funds is increasing by 10 percent a year. This is addition to a NIS 20m. cut in the administration budget. The Treasury also recommends linking support payments to inflation only once a year.

• For the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, the Treasury calls for legislation to cut NIS 10m. from work accident prevention activities, in addition to a NIS 30m. cut covered by increasing efficiency.

• For resolving the crisis in the health system, a cut of NIS 200m. in 1997 terms, by reducing purchases of pharmaceuticals by health funds and hospitals. The Treasury also wants to close clinics in small communities.

• Increasing rates for use of fresh water by agriculture by 8% a year, for the next three years, and reducing water subsidies. "The prices farmers are paying are unrealistic compared with what is being paid by the public and industrial sectors, leading to waste in the use of fresh water," the Treasury said. Another proposal is a NIS 30m. cut in water subsidy for farmers for 1999, NIS 25m. in 2000, and NIS 20m. 2001.

• In the Industry and Trade Ministry, a cut of NIS 80m. from the aid budget of NIS 3.4b. In other activities, it proposes to cut NIS 31m., mostly from the Small Business Authority, commercial offices abroad, and district offices. The Treasury also calls for the firing of 74 employees.

• In the Foreign Ministry, a NIS 20m. cut, mainly from reducing activities in international cooperation and increasing efficiency.

• Savings of NIS 17.5m. in the Agriculture Ministry by firing 120 workers and a NIS 30m. cut in aid for agricultural production, including debt arrangements.

• At the Finance Ministry, a cut of NIS 8m. via efficiency measures and closing down the Government Printing Office and giving the work to the private sector.

• For the Prime Minister's Office, a cut of NIS 3m., mostly from the Central Bureau of Statistics.

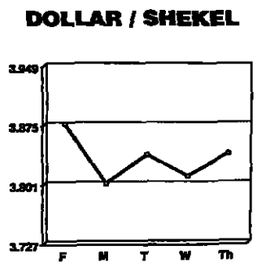
• At the Internal Security Ministry, a cut of NIS 68m., via reducing administrative workers in police headquarters and the Prisons Authority, and a postponement of building plans.

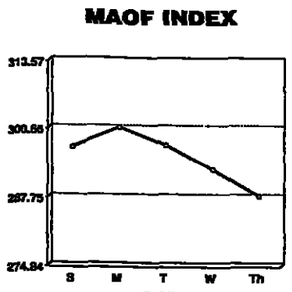
• In the Justice Ministry, a cut of NIS 20m. via reducing personnel and mail expenses.

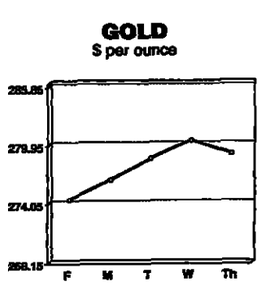
• A cut of NIS 30m. from the Transport Ministry's subsidy budget, which it said is unnecessary since the government is opening public transport to competition, thus reducing prices.

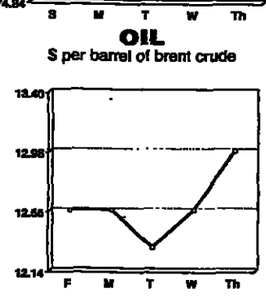
BUSINESS

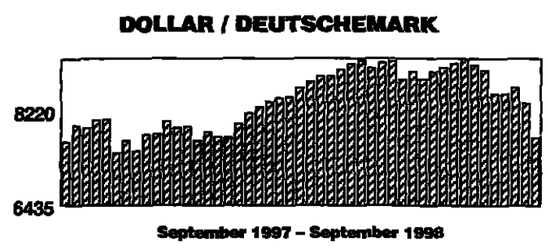
in brief

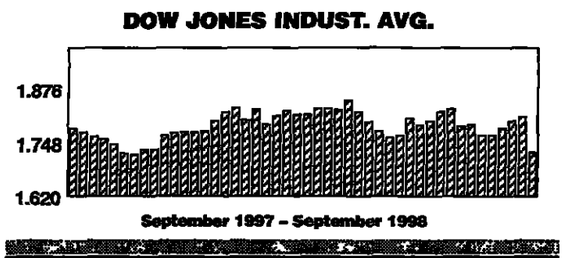












BITS & BYTES

by NINA GILBERT

First Access raises $5m.

First Access, a start-up developing hardware and software in the field of user authentication and information security, has raised $5 million in its second round of financing.

The lead investor was Jerusalem Venture Partners, which was joined by Shamrock, the Disney family's investment company, and the Van Leer Group of the Netherlands.

The Haifa-based company, established last year, unveiled and received a top award for its contactless authentication product at the CeBIT exhibition this year.

Tadiran Telecom wins $10m. contract

Tadiran Telecommunications announced that its subsidiary InnoWave has been chosen by Telecom Argentina to again provide its wireless local loop system for deployment of telecommunications services in rural and suburban networks in central Argentina.

The company said the contract, for supply of its MultiGain Wireless (MGW) System, has a potential value of up to $10 million and will strengthen InnoWave's position as a long-term provider of WLL solutions and technology in Argentina.

Haim Rosen, CEO of the Petah Tikva-based Tadiran Telecommunications, said the company first established a foothold with Telecom Argentina in 1996 with the installation of 10,000 MGW subscriber lines. "Latin America is characterized by a wide-variety of topographical regions. Laying copper wire telephony and telecommunications infrastructures in rural and suburban areas is extremely difficult," he said.

Bezeq in partnership to supply DBS

By JUDY SIEGEL

A committee of Bezeq's board of directors yesterday approved management's decision to go into a partnership supplying digital broadcasting by satellite services.

The partnership will include Gilat-Eurocom, Lidan and Bank Hapoalim, with 37.5 percent of the capital coming from Bezeq. The agreement has yet to be okayed by the entire board.

Because of the opening of telecommunications infrastructure to competition in January 1999, Bezeq is due to lose its monopoly in a major field and needs to look for other opportunities: DBS – the supply of multi-channel digital broadcasting to people anywhere in the country, without cables – is one such opportunity, Bezeq said.

DBS can be used to provide Internet service in addition to TV. Gilat is one of the country's leading satellite services company, while Eurocom Communications is an expert in marketing of communications equipment.

Lidan specializes in content accessibility and the bank is a financial leader.

Delek negotiates sale of Amisragas

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Delek, the Israel Oil Corp., yesterday said it is conducting negotiations on the sale of its 40 percent stake in gas supplier Amisragas to foreign investors.

Amisragas, the American-Israeli Gas Corporation, is jointly held by Delek and the company's founders, the US-based Paradis family. In the past it had been reported that Delek was holding talks with the Paradis family, and it can therefore be assumed a deal between the two parties will soon be announced.

Sources close to the deal said that it is expected to be completed based on a price valuing the company at tens of millions of dollars.

The deal is line with the need of Delek's main share holder, Yitzhak Tshuva, to raise cash by selling subsidiaries, as he has to repay loans taken for the completion of the Delek deal.

Earlier this year Tshuva, who is a Netanya-based contractor, completed the purchasing of a controlling stake in Delek, Israel's second largest petroleum company, for NIS 1.35 billion, which was mainly financed by a loan taken from Bank Hapoalim.

Tshuva said several months ago that he used less than $200m. in bank credit which will be financed over 15 years but it is widely believed that he needs cash to repay his debt.

As part of his efforts to raise cash, Tshuva is also trying to sell Delek's holdings in the Gadot Group.

Tshuva also announced last month that he intends to join investors Shlomo Eliahu, David Lubinsky, Yeshayahu Landau and Bernard Schereir in a bid to purchase a control in Israel Discount Bank.

Gilat, Tadiran Scopus win $15m. contract in Ethiopia

By NINA GILBERT

Gilat Satellite Networks and Tadiran Scopus have won a $15 million contract to install a satellite system for Ethiopian television as part of project to provide services in remote areas.

Ethiopian television, which currently only has one channel, is installing the system as a basis for expanding the number of television channels available in the country.

The expansion is to be based on deploying satellite capabilities throughout the country.

Under the contract, Tadiran Scopus, is to supply a digital video compression system for the broadcast of movies and sporting events.

The contract is Tadiran Scopus's first in Sub-Saharan Africa and is worth $600,000 for the Holon-based company.

Gilat Satellite Networks, based in Petah Tikva, makes small aperture terminal satellite earth stations.

Tadiran Scopus is a subsidiary of Tadiran Ltd., the country's largest electronics company.

It is a maker of digital video broadcasting products.

Landau to replace Ya'acobi as IEC chairman

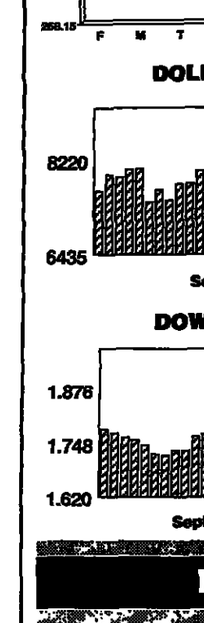
By DAN GERSTENFELD

The Israel Electric Corporation board yesterday approved the appointment of Herzliya Mayor Eli Landau as its chairman.

Landau, a close ally of National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, will replace Gad Ya'acobi, who was asked by Sharon to step down last month. At the board meeting, Ya'acobi, who was appointed by the Labor government, said that he had to leave the job four months ahead of schedule.

"I could have refused this request and even sought legal means, as this move contradicts the opinion of legal experts, the law, and the precedents. I know after serving as a minister for 10 years," he said.

One of the major achievements of Ya'acobi was the completion of an international bond sale in the US in which the firm raised $1.5 billion. He said that the utility will continue to raise money abroad to finance investments of NIS 5b. annually.



ISRAEL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

Notice to Passengers Flying Abroad

At midnight on Saturday, September 5, clocks in Israel change from summer to winter time.
Those flying abroad on flights scheduled to take off at times close to the changeover are asked to clarify with the appropriate airline the exact time of their flight.

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English 03-972 3344 Russian 03-972 3366

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هكذا من الاصل

TEL AVIV 100
LEADING SHARES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Africa Hotels	450	0
Africa Israel 0.1	18910	-0.3
Africa Israel 1	185000	0
Agis	2350	-0.4
Al Paper Mills	13400	-0.7
Al-Rov	2420	0
Azorim	2980	-2
Azorim Prop.	611	-4.4
Bank Leumi 0.1	600	-1.5
Baran	2780	-3.6
Bayside 1	44800	-0.2
Bayside 5	220000	0
Bezeq	1187	-0.4
Blue Square	5060	-0.8
Bromine	2460	-6.9
Clal Electronics	49900	-2.8
Clal Industries	1894	-2.5
Clal Insurance	3920	-2.2
Clal Israel 1	8780	-1.4
Dan Hotels	1138	3.3
Dankner	1740	-2.3
Darban	750	-0.7
Dead Sea Works 0.1	818	0
Delek 0.1	10600	-1.1
Delek Car	666	0
Development Mort	21800	0.9
Discount Bank	368	-2.7
Discount Inv.	9600	-2
Elbit 0.003	972	5.2
Elbit Imaging	3040	3.6
Elbit system	4440	0.5
Elco	2330	0
Elco Industries	3450	0
Electra	17940	0
Electra App.	2730	-1.5
Elite Ind. 1	2360	-0.8
Elite Ind. 5	10850	-0.4
Elron 0.003	5500	1.3
FIBI 5	2950	-1.7
First Int'l 1	420	-2.4
First Int'l 5	2120	-3.8
First Int'l Mort	48500	-3.1
Formula	8930	1.2
General Bank	9450	-3.8
Granit Hacarmel	735	1.4
Hadarim Prop.	6590	-0.2
Ham-Let	1739	-11
Hapoalim 0.1	898	-1.8
Harel Mishmar 1	3100	-4.8
Harel Mishmar 5	15880	-2
I.D.B. Dev.	8210	-2.9
I.D.B. Holdings	8110	-2.8
ILDC	1907	-2.1
Ind Bldgs	550	-2
Israel Chemicals	409	-0.5
Israel Corp. 1	33800	1.8
Isrotel	679	0
Jalora	783	0
JCT	35	-2.9
JEC	1750	-2.9
Kitan	378	-0.5
Knafaim	4900	-2
Koor	34200	-1.8
Leader	1200	0
Leumi Insurance	187.5	-2.3
Leumi Mortgage	83200	-0.6
Liraz	3180	0
Makhteshim Agan Ind.	882	0.1
Maman	591	0
Matav	4010	-1.7
Mehadrin	12000	-0.4
Mei Eden	1596	-4.1
Melisaron	1099	4.5
Menorah Ins. 1	2100	0
Millomor	1520	-1.1
Mishkan	64000	-0.8
Mizrahi Inv.	6790	-0.6
NATSVA REGULAR	1370	0
Nice Systems	11310	0.1
Ocif	7500	-0.5
Orbit	980	-1.4
Ormat Industries	477	1.5
Osem Industries	1701	-2.6
Petrochemicals	1877	-1.2
Phoenix Ins. 1	5230	0
Poalim Inv.	10400	0.2
Prop & Bldg	32200	-0.9
Salt Industries	1900	2.1
Solel Bone	4150	-0.2
Supersol	1036	0
Tadiran	11520	-3.3
Tambour	510	0
Tefahot	188200	-1
Tempo	1718	-7.7
Teva	13150	-2.1
Urdan	224	-3.1
Wire and Cables	1040	0
Ytong Industries	935	-1.6

KARAM
SMALL CAPITALIZATION TASE ISSUES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Boulous GD	369	0
Solomon Holdings	414	2.9
Abjac	2	11.1
Abudi	47.2	0
Ace-Spade	87.5	0
Ackerstein Bond B	189.4	0.2
Ackerstein Ind.	538	1.5
Ackerstein Zvi 1	1791	0
Ackerstein Zvi 5	8770	0
adakom	36.5	0
Adanim	347254	0
Adler	102	0
Adsha	136	0
Adumim	230	9.5
Africa Hotels Bond B	89.8	-0.4
Africa Hotels Warrant 2	57.5	4.3
Africa Israel Hotels Bond A	137	0
Afsek Ind	1080	0
Agis Warrant 3	20	0
Agis Warrant 4	400	0
Agish Int'l	310	-2.5
Agn Investments	490	0
Al-Ben	117	9.9
Al-Ben Bond A	121.5	0
Alhe c2	100.7	-0.2
Alhe w6	127	0
Alliance	623	6.5
Alony	319	0
Alony-Hetz	460	0
Alony-Hetz Bond A	256	0
Alrod	214	0
Alrod Warrant 1	5.6	-1.8
Alrov Bond D	83.8	0
Alrov Warrant 5	319	0
Alumir	221	0
Alumit	1717	-1.3
Amagar	173.6	0
Amitec	176	-3
Ammed Warrant 1	49	0
Ammet	632	-2.8
Ampa Investments	128500	0
Analyst EMS	685	-5.3
Angel Trade	32.4	0
Angel Trade Bond A	148.5	0.3
Angel Trade Bond B	119	-0.4
Angel Trade Bond C	83.5	-1.6
Apcon	820	0
Apcon warrant 1	210	-4.8
Applicom	2990	-5.4
Aracell Warrant 2	430	-7
Arad	1540	0
Arad Towels	920	-11.4
Arazim	110	0
Arazim Bond 1	248	0
Argaman	255	0
Aridan	1080	0
Arpal	349	0
Aryt	107	4.7
Ashkelon Plywood	511	0
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 1	248	0
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 2	127.6	0.1
Ashlad	369	0
Ashlad Bond A	158	0
Ashot	268	8.2
Ashot Bond A	166.5	0
Ashpara	84	0
Ashtrom Bond 1	167	-5.1
Ashtrom Bond 2	152.3	0
Ashtrom Ind.	532	0
Ashtrom Prop.	220	0
Ashtrom P Bond 1	85.3	-0.2
Asrom p warrant a	28.3	0
Astrum Bond C	100.8	-0.5
Astrum Warrant 2	28.5	1.8
Atlon	85.5	1.6
Atmor	1889	0
ATX	196	0
ATX Bond A	151.5	0.3
Atzmon	225	0
Aura	3450	1.4
Avarot	350	0
Avarot Bond A	163.8	0
Avebuch Formica	518	0
Aviv	312	0
Aviv Bond 1	156	0
Aviv Bond 2	98	0
Avner	3.1	19.4
Avrot Bond 2	92.9	0
Avrot Warrant 2	69	0
Ayalon	495	9.1
Azimuth	445	0
Azorim Properties Bond 3	170.5	0
Azorim Warrant 13	475	-4
Azorim Warrant 5	101.5	0
Azorim Warrant A	570	3.2
Azorim Warrant B	740	0
Badash Bond 1	32.6	0
Bahlil	340	-5.9
Balentine 1	128	-0.4
Balentine Bond A	131.5	0.4
Balentine Warrant 2	3	-9.1
Balkon	2600	2.9
Bamal'ssel	102	0
Bamal'ssel Bond A	148.6	0
Bar	315	-3.1
Bar Bond A	132	0
Barad	254	0
Baranowitz	747	0
Barkan	668	0
Barol	120	10.1
Bartal	214	0
Baumel Moshe	163.5	0
BaySide Bond 2	93.3	0.2
BaySide Warrant D	2190	0
Beit Shemesh	1600	-1.9
Belmon	333	0
Ben Yakir Bond A	175	0.9
Ben Yakir Bond B	90.5	0
Ben Yakir Gat	3509	10
Berman	148	0
Bezeq Bond 3	117.9	-0.1
Bezeq Bond 4	0	0
Bezeq Warrant 3	0	0
Bezeq Warrant Bond 3	297	-3
Bitz	2220	0
Bitz Bond A	193	0
Binar	380	0
Bnl	283	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Bolos Bond B	87	0
bolos gad warrant 1	44.7	0
Bonei Tichon	500	0
Bonjour	486	0
Boulous Brothers	156	-3.2
Boulous Brothers Bond 1	264	0
Boulous GD Bond A	140.5	0
Brand	66.5	0
Brill	62	0
Brok Side	15.9	-0.6
Brosh	138.5	9.9
Building Bank	1566	9.1
Building Resou.	3800	0
C Holdings	468	-11.1
C Holdings Bond 5	80	-2.5
C Holdings Warrant 3	0	0
Caesarea 1	5550	0.9
Canal	3450	1.4
Capital	820	0
Capital Bond A	125.5	0
Capnco	337	-3.9
Cargal	745	0
Carmel	535	0
Carmiel	392	4.3
Castro	573	-1.2
Catalana 1	299	-0.7
CDI	160.5	0
Cementcal Bond A	78.7	0
Cementcal	365	-0.8
Centra	123.5	0
Centre Bond 1	137	-0.4
Cham	398	-2.8
Chayun Computers	129.5	4.9
Chempal	416	-0.2
Chim-Nir	480	0
CI Systems	165	0
Cidab	143.5	0
Clal Computers	8390	-0.5
Clal Israel 5	0	0
Clal Retail	56030	-1
Cohen Beni	104	-2.9
Cohen Dev.	190	0
Cohen MM	138	0
Cold Storage 1	1890	-0.5
Cold Storage 5	8500	1.4
Cold Storage and Supply Bond 1	252	0
Compl	131	0.8
Compl Warrant 1	20	0
Compulite	178	8.8
Comtech	413	0
Comtrans	720	-7
Contal	971	0
Contractors	16812	0
Coral Beach	552	1.3
Credit Line	3.4	0
Credit Lines Bond A	33	0
Cyclone 1	2680	1.1
Cyclone Bond 1	254	0
Cyclone Bond 2	165	1.2
Dalron	1647	0
Dalron Bond 1	252	0
Dalin	1.4	0
Dan Rent-A-Car	735	0
Dan Rent-A-Car Bond A	156.1	0
Danbar 1	5350	0.6
Danbar 5	17570	0
Danbar Bond A	266	0
Danbar Resources	7500	0
Danbar Resources Bond B	167	0
Danbar Tech.	5210	-6.3
Danbar Technologies Bond A	156	0.6
Danel	47	-10.6
Danel Bond A	91.7	0
Danel Personnel	2020	-4
Danel Warrant 2	435	0
Dankner Bond 1	208	0
Dankner Bond 2	143	0
Dankner Bond 3	97.4	0
Dankner Warrant C	530	0
Danly	464	0
Darad	107	0
DARBAN BOND 2	103.9	0
Darban Bond A	269	0
DARBAN W2	96	0
Darban Warrant 3	134	0
Daras	145.5	0
Darlon	234	5.1
Dash investment	860	-8.1
Data	581	0
Decision Systems	442	-3.6
Degem Systems	444	0
Delek Drillings	13.5	9.6
Delek Oil	1336	0
Delta 1	3220	-1.9
Delta 3	0	0
Destiny	779	0.8
Digal	149.5	0
Dirom1	1226	0
Dolev	300	0
Dolev Bond A	140	0
Dolev warrant 1	44	0
Domicar	405	0
Domicar Bond	155	0
Dor Berger	379	-1.6
Dor Chim	369	0
Dorc w1	76	-5.3
Dorea	56	0
Dori c1	97.8	0
Dori Engineering	444	-0.4
Dori Engineering Bond A	141	-0.4
Dovrat Bond A	141.5	0
Dovrat Shrem	1225	0
Dovrat Shrem Warrant 3	0	0
DSL	1033	0.4
Dubek M	2.5	-4
Dubek S	2.4	0
Dunitz	298	0
DYG Industries	457	0
E & M Computing	1044	-1.1
Edgar Albeni	54	0
Edgar Industries	198.7	-0.2
Edgar Inv. Bond C	88	-1.9
Edgar Inv. Warrant 5	20	1
Elfar Bond A	98	0
Elnl	151	-0.7
Eltam	300	0
Eltorsen	2830	1.1
El Bad	1523	-8.4
El Card	544	-1.4
El Card Bond 1	181	0
Elad	458	-5.9
Elad Bond A	170	0
Elad Bond B	151.5	0
Elad c3	75	0
Elad w5	29	0
Elbit Computers Bond B	125	0.9
Elbit Computers Warrant 2	0	0
Eldan Tech.	218	0
Electronics Line	537	0
Elger	5150	1.9
Elishav	502	0
Elitech Ind.	800	0
Elkam	304	-4.3
Ella	354	-9.9
Ella Bond A	145.5	0.3
Elran	3650	0
Elron Warrant 2	0	0
Emek	140	0
Emyle	570	0
Engel Const.	728	4.8
ESE	1777	-8.6
Eshed Robotech	190	0
Evan	406	0
Evergreen	3200	0
Evolis Warrant 1	1550	0
Excelence	1647	0
Export Inv.	820	0
Extra	106.5	-3.2
Feldman	168	0
Feldman Bond A	148.6	0
Feldman Ind.	246	0
Feldman Warrant 3	13	0
Fertilisers 1	119	0
Feuchtwanger 1	9690	0
Feuchtwanger 5	45600	-0.9
Fideli	2390	0
Five J Jewelers	330	0
Five J Jewelers Bond 2	132	0
Formica Source	116	0
Frutarom	384	5.2
Gahelet	14000	-4
Galcom	180.1	-10.5
Galran	970	-4.8
Gama	187	-0.5
Gamatronic	583	0
Gambit	1853	0
Gan ShmuelBond A	105.4	0.3
Gan ShmuelWarrant 3	441	-2.3
Gan Shmuel	1231	-5.6
Ganei Hadar	440	0
Gap Development	110	0
Gap Holdings	192	2.6
Gap Warrant 2	4	-50
Gazit	627	9.1
Gazit Bond B	155	0.6
Gazit Bond C	128.9	-0.6
Gibor Bond 1	65	0
Gibor Bond A	90	0
Gibor Sabrina	62	0
Gibor Sport	648	-3.9
Gibor Warrant 2	85	5.9
Gilboa	67.5	0
Gilo	180	0
Gilsak	1899	0
Gvot Olam Oil	111	9
Glob Rit	756	-1.1
Golan	615	0
Gold	233	-0.4
Golden House	405	0
Golden House Bond 1	254	0
Golex	187	0
Granit Bond	154	-0.5
Granit Bond 2	153.6	-0.1
Green Software	276	0
Greenberg	1450	5.9
H. Electronics	45	0
H. Mer	742	0
Habas	2455	0
Habas Bond 1	135	-1.1
Hadar 1	30000	-8.7
Hadar 5	75000	-5.7
Hadar Ins. 1	790	1.3
Hadar Ins. 5	3780	15
Hadarim Bond1.	114.6	-0.3
Hadarim Warrant1	990	0
Hagai	370	0
Hagai Bond B	154	-1
Hamakor	256	0
Hanal	5	-6
Harel Bond A	480	0
Hasin Esh	823	0
Hason	182.5	4.9
Hatehof 1	270	0
Hatehof Bond A	144.4	0
Hayal	1150	0
Hayal Bond1	0	0
Hayal Bond2	145	0
Hayal Warrant 1	84.7	0
Hed Arzi Music	305	-4.9
Hiron 1	10500	0
Hiron 5	38400	0
HL Service Bond 2	188.5	0
HL Service Bond 3	152	0
HL Services	1476	0
Hod	130	-2.3
Hof	697	0
Hofit	135.5	0
Home Center	5700	2.4
Hydrolics	118	-0.4
IES Industries	520	-5.8
IES Warrant 1	89	0
Ilan Gat	113	-5
Ilan Gat Bond A	148	-1
ILDC Bond 6	250	-1.2
ILDC Hotels	422	-25.6
ILDC Hotels Bond 1	170.5	0.3
ILDC Hotels Warrant 2	103	0
ILDC Insurance	423	0
ILDC Insurance Bond A	138.2	0
Imco	937	-3.4
Ind Bld Warrant 3	29.5	-5.1
Ind Bldgs R1	16	-8.2
Ind.Dev.Bank C	316	0.3

	LAST	CHANGE*
Ind.Dev.Bank CC	3240	0
Ind.Dev.Bank CC 1	3140	0
Ind.Dev.Bank Pref	1640	-0.4
Independence Mort	76000	0
Intercosma	718	0
Intergamma 1	3540	0
Intergamma 5	13000	0
Isral	1695	0
Ispro	3900	0
Isracolor	310	-11
Israel Corp. 5	142000	2.8
Israel Lighterage Bond 3	138.8	0
Israel Wire & Cables Bond C	179.7	0.2
Isralom	933	-2.1
Isralom Bond B	267	0
Isralom Bond C	91.5	0
Isramco	2.3	-4.3
Isras 1	7190	0
Isras 5	38000	-3.9
Isras Bond A	252	0
ISTA LINES	2270	0
Itay	2680	0
Itay Bond 1	76.2	-0.1
Itay Warrant 1	336	70.2
Itay Warrant 2	20	0
Jalora Bond A	170	0
Jaysour	130	0
Jaysour Bond A	109	0
JEC Bond B	93	-1.1
Jerusalem Mort	195	0
Jerusalem Mortgage Bond 16	182.5	0
Jeunesse	30.2	0
JOEL	80	-8.2
JOEL Bond 1A	220	0
JOEL Bond 2	127	0.4
JOEL Bond A	222	0
JOEL Warrant 3	1.3	0
Kadmani	123.3	9.1
Kadouri	368	0
katrice bond b	91	0
katrice warrant 1	84.5	0
Katrit	1241	-11.1
Kalkalit Bond A	84.8	-0.9
Kalkalit warrant 2	259	3.5
Kamour	487	-0.2
Kamour Bond G	134	0
Kamaspi	970	-6.9
Kanal Warrant G	1	0
Kanicol	30.7	0
Kanicol Bond A	41.8	0
Kardan 1	487	-2.7
Kardan 5	2400	-1.7
Katz	126	0
Katz Bond A	54	0
Kedem Chemicals	3890	0
Kedem Chemicals Bond 2	0	0
Kenitex	335	0
Kesher	749	-0.1
Kesher Bond A	152.3	0
Keter	665	0
Kind	18.9	0
Kind Bond A	40.6	0
King	283	0
Kinneret	200	-0.5
Klech Kinur	184	0
Kishrai Teufa	1021	-5.2
Kital	230	-4.3
Kital Bond A	154	0
Kital Bond A	120.7	-0.1
Kill Ind. 5	6850	0
Koor Bond 5	142.7	0
Kopel	248	0
Kopel Bond 1	247	0
La Nationale Bond A	139	0
La Nationale Pref	124.4	0
Lachish	2790	0
Lamont	800	0
Lapidot Oil Exploration	1	0
Lapidot Oil Explorers	75	0
Lasers	376	0
Lovlav	551	0
Laznick Bldg	450	0
Laznick Comm Ctrs	156	0
Laznick Commercial Centres Bond	136	0
Laznick Ind Bldgs	327	0
Laznick Industrial Bldgs. Bond A	142	0
Leader Warrant B	0	0
Lego	470	0
Leumi R4	0	0
Leventhal	408	-0.2
Levi	650	0
Levi Bond A	149	0
Levi Bond B	89.5	0
Levi Warrant 2	73	0
Levinstein Bond A	96	-0.5
Levinstein Warrant 2	707	0
Levinstein	1540	0
Liber	328	0
Lidan	1455	0
Lifshir 1	180	0
Lifshir 5	720	0
Liged	678	0
Liged Bond 1	152.5	0
Lighterage 1	595	-0.8
LIMS	245	0
Lipman	2700	0
Lipski	2570	-1.2
Lipski Bond A	170.5	0
Liraz Bond A	136.8	-0.8
Lodan	134.5	0
Lodzia 1	1355	0
Lodzia 4	5380	0
Luhot Galil	31.1	0
Luhot Galil Bond 1	141	0
Lumir	3500	-0.6
Ma'ariv	2710	-7
Ma'ariv Bond A	138	-3.7
Maabarot	1201	-4.1
Macpell	780	-2.6
Macpell Bond A	140.1	0.1
Macpell Bond B	123	0
Macpell Bond C	77.8	-0.3
Macpell Warrant 3	40	0
Mafil	790	0
Magam	125	0
Magam Bond A	169	0
Magam Bond B	132	0
Magav	159.5	0
Magma	43.6	-0.5
Magor 1	2120	0
Magor 5	9800	0
Magor hldgs. Bond B	87	0
Magor hldgs. Warrant 2	552	0
Malal	275	0
Mali	138.7	9.1
Malibu 1	0	0
Malibu 5	0	0
Malibu Bond B	0	0
Malta	760	0
Man	77	0
Man Bond A	215	0
Mantur	24.7	0
Marathon	96.3	0
Marathon insured	99	-0.4
Mario Laznick Constr. Bond 1	169	0
Mario Laznick Constr. Bond 2	152.2	0
Maritime Bank	1335	-1.5
Maritime Bank Bond A	202	0
Maritime Bank Bond B	144.4	0
Mashav	611	-4.2
Mashbir	600	0
Mashov	348	-5.2
Mashov	162.5	-2.1
Matam	1403	0
Matav Warrant 1	925	-4.3
Maxima 1	370	0
Maxima 5	1646	0
Mazpak	765	0.7
Med. Hotels	27.9	0
Meditechnica	660	-2.6
Meditechnica Bond A	136.5	0
Meditechnica Bond B	84.9	-0.5
Meditechnica Warrant 2	85	20
Mediterranean Hotels Bond A	45	-6.7
Megason	57.5	0
Meimad	386	0
Meir Ezra	1960	2.6
Meir Ezra Bond B	255	0
Melet	295	-3.7
Melisaron Bond B	92.3	0.3
Melisaron Warrant 3	42	0
Mendelson	172	-0.8
Menofim	36.4	0
Menorah Ins. 5	8300	0
Mercazil	900	0
Merhav	178	1.7
Meytavit	211	-0.9
Middle East Tube	370	0
Middle East Tube Bond A	111.4	0
Middle East Tube Warrant 2	14.4	0
Milinor Bond A	141	-2.8
Millomar Bond B	85	0
Millomar Warrant 2	145	0
Mimsar	91	0
Mini Line	515	0
Miraav	12100	-8
Mirage	204	-1.5
Mirage Bond A	137.5	-0.4
Mirage Warrant 1	12.8	20.3
Mironit	60	0
Mishnael	19	0
Mishnael Bond B	58	0
Mishor Bond 2	148	0
Mishor Hahol	351	0
Mitrani	182	0
Mivtach Shamir	2240	-1.3
Mivtach Shamir	1281	0
Mizrahi	786	-2
Mizrahi warrant 1	205	-13.2
Mizrahi warrant 2	123	-8.1
MM Engineering	114.5	0
MM Engineering Bond A	83	-5.1
Modgal	624	-4.2
Modi'in	1	0
Moffet	186.9	-1.7
Moffet Convertible Bond AAA	299	0
Molett	849	0
More Plastic Ind.	395	0
Moshkovitz	149.9	0
MTI Computers	468	0
Mul-T-Lock	780	4.5
Mule Senter	223	0
Nachshon Fund.	44.6	0
Naphtha	32.5	-1.5
Naphtha Oil Exp.	27.8	0
Natour	751	0
NATSVA BOND A	104.7	0
Navigator	340	0
Navigator Property	749	0
Nechushtan Bond B	78.9	-0.1
Nechushtan Prop.	198.9	0
Nechushtan Properties Bond A	138.7	0
Nechushtan Warrant 1	42.8	0
Negev Ceramics	168	0
Nehushtan 1	600	0
Nehushtan 5	2500	0
Neot Aviv	7600	0
Nesua	469	1.9
Neve Arbel	150.5	4.7
Nevim Hotels	359	-0.6
Neviot	800	0
Nia	232	0
Nikuv	920	0
Nisco	2560	-2.7
Nissan	254	-2.7
NMC	240	-8.3
Noga	1500	5.4
Noga Insorans	110	0
Nordan	10.9	0
Nordan Tech.	393	0.3
Norfolk	850	0
Norfolk Bond A	148	0
Nur	83	0
NYP	991	6.1
Oceana	293	0
Ocif Bond A	180.8	0
Ocif Bond C	90.3	0
Ocif Warrant 2	726	0
Octova	630	0
Olek	210	-4.3
Oler Bro	5100	-4.9
Offis	1100	0
Ogden	61	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Ohaliav	480	0
Oil Fields	1.1	0
Oil-Dok	272	-1.1
Omni	253	-1.2
Omnitech	175	0
Ophir	361	0
Oppenheimer	88	0
Opima	111	0
Orasys	2552	-2
Orazit	360	0
Orazit Bond A	182.6	0
Orda	3530	0
Orda Bond 1	172	0
Orav	811	0
Oriell	101	0
Orlite	295	-5.1
Orlite Bond A	94	0
Orlite Warrant 2	18.7	0
Ormat Industries Bond D	135.1	0
Ormat Industries Warrant 5	159	0
Orsal	360	-2.2
Ozar Hashilton	25000	0
Oz	186	5.4
Oz aside	427	0
Packer Steel	5300	3.5
Paltough	585	-0.9
PAM	485	-3.1
Pama	665	0
Pamas	2260	-1.8
Pan Dor	271	0
Pardes	711	0
Pardes Bond A	53	0
Passport	2500	0
Paz Chen	393	0
PCB	1280	-1.6
Pdan Investment	43.4	0
Pereg	102.9	0
Periclase	765	0.8
Phoenix Ins. 5	20000	0
Pica Plast	437	0
Pirros	132	0
Pirros Bond A	144.5	0
Pitilit	415	0
Plason bond a	102	0
Plason warrant 1	368	0
Plasson	3500	-8.6
Plasto Sac	851	0
Plasto Shack Bond A	87.8	0
Plasto Shack Warrant 2	103	0
Poalim Inv. Bond B	85.5	0
Poalim Inv. Warrant 3	2600	0
Poalim Investments Bond A	138	1.1
Poalim Warrant 3	0	0
Point of Sale	1740	-2.5
Polak	230	-0.9
Polgat A	312	-5.4
Polgat B 4	1090	-0.5
Polgat Bond B	0	0
Polygon	204	0
Polygon Bond 2	220	0
Ponaz	211	-4.3
Port	72	0
Poseidon	109	0
Pn Haemek	18.5	-0.5
Pn Haemek Bond A	33.5	-2.3
Pritzker	212	0
Pritzker Bond A	143	0
Profit	305	8.5
Profit Bond A	132.5	0
Python	494	0
Quality Cap Mkts	550	-1.8
Rabintex	270	0
Ram Zur	82.5	0
Ramgor 1	276	0
Ramgor 4	685	0
Rapak	2140	-7
Rapak Bond A	156.7	0
Rassco	1400	0
Ratio	1	0
Rav Car	110	4.5
Ravad	164	-0.6
RDC	1100	0
RDC Bond A	144.2	0
Red Sea Hotels	780	1.3
Regency	103	0
Regency Bond 1	122	-0.4
Regent	430	-2.3
Regent Bond A	145	0
Rekah	400	0
Reshef	53.5	0.9
Reshef Bond B	109	-5.6
Rimoni	750	-10.4
Rogosin	1199	4.1
Rogozin Bond A	84.3	-0.2
Rogozin Warrant B	454	-5.7
Romtech	361	0
Rosebud	90	-3.3
Rosental	124	0
Rotem	380	25.8
Rotshtein	141	0
Rotshtein Bond A	141.6	4.3
RSL	690	-7.8
Sadot Mop Bond A	97.4	0.6
Sahar Bond a	95	0
Sahar Dev.	2800	0
Sahar Securities	614	0
Sahar Warrant 1	273	0
Saniacol	266	0
Sano 1	2000	1.2
Sano 5	11490	0
Scope	915	-12.8
Scope Bond A	92.5	0
Scope Warrant 2	170	0
Sea Trade	514	0
Secom	258	0
Securitas	906	6.5
Securitas Bond A	179	0
Sefen	1260	-4.4
Saralon	403	0
Shaked	323	0
Shamir	234	0
Shalyeh	1220	0
Shef	312	0
Shekel	141	0
Shekel Bond A	151	1
Shekem	73.9	1.9
Shekem Barkan Bond 4	157	0
Shekem Bond 1	149	-0.7
Shekem Warrant 1	1	0
Shaleg	102	0
Shem Tov	249	0
Sheman	11880	2.9
Shemen Bond A	164	0
Shladot	63	0
Shlomo Angel	5773	0
Shmi c2	85.1	0
Shmi w2	210	0
Shmira	800	-4.8
Shmira Bond A	151	0
Shniv	559	-0.2
Shove	284	-2.1
Shtang	114	0
Shulamit	278	2.5
Shulamit Bond A	131.4	-11.1
Sinai	420	-0.2
Sinai Bond A	143.5	0
Solel Bone Bond A	110	-0.2
Soli BoneR1	464	-1.3
Solog	593	0
Solomon	444	0
solomon bond a	78.4	0.5
solomon warrant 2	59.5	20.2
South Pipe	394	0
Spancrit	269	1.1
Spectronix 1	1205	-5.7
STG	1169	0
STG Bond A	112.5	0
Sunfrost	3900	0
Suny Electronics	550	0
Synopsis	230	0
Synopsis Bond A	150	0
Syntec	390	0
Te'al	228	25.7
Tachof Bond B	84	0
Tachof Warrant 3	75	0
Tadbik	270	0
Tadiran Appl	475	-2.1
Takam	1575	2.2
Tal	170.1	0
Tal Bond A	83.9	0
TAP Bond 1	278	0
Tashloz bond a	130	0
Tashloz warrant 2	293	0
Tashluz	1183	-0.2
Tashluz Bond A	168	0
Tashluz Bond B	135.8	0
Tashluz Prop.	1010	-1
Tashluz Warrant 2	0	0
Taste of Israel	168	9.9
TAT 1	329	-1.2
TAT 5	1340	-3.7
TAT Bond A	250	0
Taya	790	0
Taya Comm. 1	245	-5.7
Team Computers	4900	-1.2
Technoplast	498	-2.2
Technoplast Warrant 2	620	6.5
Tedea	1700	-5.9
Tedea Bond A	107.7	0.8
Tedea Warrant 1	292	0
Tefahot Preferred	190000	0
Telen	1355	0
Teldor	520	0
Telsis	1450	0.7
Telsis Warrant 1	300	0
Tene	209	-0.5
Teuza	200	-2.5
Teuza insured	205	-4.4
Tibon Veal	165	0
Tim Warrant 3	620	0
Tiv	419	0
TMM	103	0
Tobias	2260	0
Tom	850	-4.9
Topline	474	0
Topline Bond 2	155	0
Topper	22.8	0
Topper Bond 1	83.5	0
Tosaf Compounds	345	0
Trade	395	2.8
Trade Bond A	198.2	0
Trend Line	1450	-11
Trocadero	19.8	0
Trydikal	405	0
Tsabar	144	0
Tsarfati	540	-8.3
Tsarfati Bond A	149	0
Tsur	176	-1.1
Tsur Bond A	251	0
Tsur Bond B	119	-0.8
Tsur Bond C	98.6	0
Tsur Preferred	162	0.9
Tuttnauer	809	-10.9
Tzmicha	480	0
Tzmicha Bond A	157	0
Ultrakl	38	0
Unibar 1	754	0
Unibar 5	784	0
Unico	3387	-3
Unicom 1	53	0
Unicom Bond 1	228	0
Unidress	1890	0
United Steel	130	0
United Steel Industries Bond 1	158.1	0
Univercol	335	0
Urdan Warrant 5	115	0
Uropa Israel	2790	2.2
Vardinon	23700	0
Vardinon Bond A	154	0
Vardinon Convertible Bond AAA	152.3	0
Videomatrix	32.6	0
Vilar	390	0
Vilar Bond 1	152.5	0
Vil Food	1548	0
Viliger Bond A	142.5	0
Vitalgo	375	0
Vitalgo Bond A	130.5	0
Vulcan	444	0
Vulcan Bond 1	235	0
Wits Bond A	91.1	0
Will Warrant 1	400	0

*In local currencies

	LAST	CHANGE*
Woolfman 1	580	0
Woolfman 5	2900	0
Woolfson	64200	0
Ya'ara	511	-10
Yaacobi	143	0
Yaad Bond A	171.5	0
Yaad Bond B	86.5	0
Yaad Industries	298	0
Yaad Warrant 3	38.1	0
Yad	434	9.9
Yamit	186	0
Yarden	479	1.9
Yarden Bond 2	129	0.4
YDPZ	248	0
YDPZ Bond A	150	0
Yeda	1380	-3.6
Yehuda	197.5	0
Yesh Gad	38.7	0
Yhsal	1325	-0.4
Yhshal Warrant 1	275	0
Yona Bond A	157.1	-0.8
Yona Hotels	200	0
Yozma	437	0
Yuval	123	-0.8
Zafrir	565	0
Zanes Holdings	54.5	0
Zarfati Bond B	90.3	0
Zarfati Warrant 2	67	0
Zat	113	8.4
Zeharn	145.5	0
Zeller Ablagon	444	0
Zeller Ablagon Bond A	147.5	0
Zeller Ablagon Bond B	128	0
Zeller Inv. Bond A	65	0
Zeller Inv. Warrant 1	3.4	-5.6
Zika 1	737	0
Zika 5	3080	0
Zikit 1	4700	0
Zikit 5	20400	0
Zinconal	534	-1.3
Zion Cables 1	230	-1.7
Zion Holdings	15125	10
Zion Textiles	182.5	8.6
Ziv	352	0
Zohar	231	0
Zoko	217	0

ISRAELI SHARES ABROAD

AMEX

	LAST	CHANGE*
Am Israel Paper Mills	34.75	-0.25
Ampal American Israel	4.5	-0.1875
Carmel Container Sys.	6.5625	0
Electro Chemical Ind.	0.875	0
Emultek	2.25	+0.125
Etz Lavud	7	0
Etz Lavud Cl A	5.5	0
Integrated Technology	1 1875	+0

NASDAQ

	LAST	CHANGE*
ACS Electronics Ltd	2.125	+0.0625
Accent Software	-	-
A.G. Associates	3.25	+0.25
Aladdin	6.9375	-0.375
Ampal	15.25	0
Arel Commun & Software	3.0625	-0.1875
Arel Comm & Soft Warrant	0.125	0
Better Online Solutions	4.875	-0.25
Better Online Sol Ltd 99	0.28125	-0.03125
Bio Technology General	4.9375	+0.0625
B.V.R. Technologies	10.5	-0.5
Checkpoint Software	19.625	-1.875
Cimatron	1.9375	+0.375
Comverse Technology	37.375	+0.75
Crystal Systems Solutions	6.625	-0.25
D.S.P.G. Group	14.625	-0.5
D.S.P.T. Tech	6.5	-0.375
Data Systems Software	2.75	+0
ECI Telecom	27.125	-1.375
Edusoft	4.125	+0.125
Electric Fuel	3.5	-0.0625
Electronics for Imaging	14.125	-0.875
Elbit Computers	2.6875	+0.09375
Elron Electronics ord	14.1875	-0.3125
Elron Electronics Ind Ltd	-	-
Elbit Medical Imaging	7.875	+0.25
Elbit Systems Ltd	11.75	-0.0625
Elisk Circuit Boards	1.75	+0.4375
Engel General Developers	5.875	0
ESC Medical Systems Ltd	21.9688	+0.71875
Elbit Vison Systems	1.71875	-0.21875
Eshed Robotec (1982)	0.3125	0
Formula Systems (1985)	26.0625	+0.5
Forsoft Ltd	13.75	-0.875
Fundtech	12.8125	-0.5625
Galileo	9.5625	-0.0625
G.Willi-Food	4.125	+0
Gilat Comm Ltd	5.8125	-0.0625
Gilat Satellite Networks	35	-1.5
Genesis Bnls.	5.125	-0.125
Healthcare Technologies	1.125	+0.5
Home Center	16	-0.25
I.C.T.S.	5.5	+0
IIC Industries	9.5	+0
I.I.S. Intelligent Info	0.71875	+0
Israel Land Develop - ADR	16	0
Indigo	2.625	-0.0625
ISG Intl Software Group	8.75	-0.125
Isramco	2.4375	+0.03125
Isramco Warrants A	-	-
Isramco Warrants B	-	-
Lan Optics	2.5625	+0.0625
Logal	1.125	+0
Level 8 Systems	7.3125	+0
M-Systems Flash Disk	3	-0.0625
Madge	3.125	+0
Magal Security Systems	2.5	-0.15625
Matav	20.375	-0.375
Medis El	3.875	-0.25
Memco	14.875	-1.5
Mer Telemanagement	1.1875	0
Mercury	37.875	+0.375
Magic Software Enterprises	2.625	-0.125
Netmanage	1.125	-0.1875
New Dimension Software	22.875	+0
Nexus Telecomm Sys Ltd	5.1875	+0.0625
Nice Systems	29	-0.5
Neuro-Medical Systems	0.5	+0
Noga Electro Mechanical	1.3125	0
Nur Tecnology	2.375	-0.1875
Opti Systems Solutions	5.375	+0
Optomedics Medical Tech	3.0625	-0.0625
Optomedics Medical Warrant	0.65625	+0
Orbit/FR Inc	3	-0.25
Orbotech	27.5	-1
Orckit	15.75	-0.5
Oshap Technologies	4.5	-0.125
Paradigm Geophys	4.625	0
Pharmos	1.6875	-0.0625
Point of Sale	4.5	-0.125
Reda Electronics Ind	1.03125	+0
Radcom Ltd	3.0625	-0.3125
RIT Technologies	5.375	-0.25
RSL Communications	23.4375	-1.3125
Scitex Corporations	10.375	-0.375
Silicom	1.6875	0
Summit Design	6.875	-0.1875
Sapiens International	5.125	+0.3125
Scanvec	2.75	+0
Tadiran Telecomm	14.875	+0.3125
Taro Pharmaceuticals Ind	4.4375	-0.125
Tat Technologies	1.375	+0.34375
Technomatix Technologies	10	+0.75
Teva	35.5	+0.375
Top Image Systems	3.125	+0.0625
Top Image Systyms Warrant	0.28125	-0.09375
Teledata Communications	9.875	-0.375
Tower Semiconductor	7.125	-0.125
TTI Team Telecom Intl Ltd	4.125	+0
TTR Inc	2.25	0
TVG Technologies	0.78125	-0.03125
TVG Tech A	0.25	0
TVG Tech B	0.25	0
TVG Tech C	0.3125	0
Vocaltec	8.375	+0.375
Wiz Tec Solutions	9.25	+0
Zoran Corporation	8.3125	+0.3125

NYSE

	LAST	CHANGE*
Amdocs	8.625	+0.25
Blue Square	14.1875	0
D.S.P. Communications	11.25	-0.5
Elscint	7.9375	+0.375
First Israel Fund	11.625	-0.1875
PEC Israeli Economic Corp	22.8125	-0.75
Koor	17.5625	-0.1875
Simula Inc	9	-0.1875
Super-Sol Ltd	13.625	+0.125
Tadiran	29.625	-1.3125
Tefron Ltd	7	-0.5

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 3-SEP-98)

LONDON

	LAST	CHANGE*
Batm Advanced	180	-2.5
Dmatek Ltd	30	+0
Pilat	37.5	+0
S.E.A. Multimedia	5	+0

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 3-SEP-98)

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

NEW YORK

	LAST	CHANGE*
Alza	38.875	-0.125
AMP Inc	37.25	-1.1875
AMR Corp	50.1875	-2
ASA	17.25	+1.5625
Abbott Labs	40.125	+1.1875
Advanced Micro	14	-0.6875
Aetna Life	64.625	-0.625
Affiliated Publ	18.125	-0.375
Aflac	27.375	+0.625
Ahmanson (HF)	58.625	-0.3125
Air Prods	32.125	+0.5
Alberto-Culv B	21.5625	-0.125
Albertson's	52.5625	+1.3125
Alcan Aluminum	21.75	+1.25
Allied Signal	33	-1.3125
Alcoa	64.6875	+2.5
Amax	-	-
Amazon	85.875	-2
Amerada Hess	49.1875	-1.3125
Amer Brands	23.375	-0.0625
Amer El Power	44.25	-0.1875
Amer Express	76.875	-8.875
Amer Genl Corp	64.25	-1.1875
Amer Greeting	35.5625	-0.75
Amer Home Pr	48.8125	-0.6875
Amer Int'l	79.8125	-1
Amer Natl Ins	96	+6.5625
Amer Power Conv	30.0625	+0
Amer Stores	30.5938	+1.03125
Amer T & T	51.8125	-0.5
Amer West Hldg	14.125	-5.625
Ameritech	45.625	-0.5
Ametek Inc	19.5625	-0.4375
Amgen	64	+0.5
Amoco	48.5	+0.3125
Analog Devices	13.625	-0.75
Andrew Corp	13	-0.9375
Anheuser-Busch	49.8125	+1.0625
Aon Corp	82	-1.3125
Apple Computer	34.625	-0.9375
Applied Magnetics	4.1875	-0.25
Applied Materials	24	-0.875
Archer Daniels	15.1875	-0.375
Armco	3	-1.75
Armstrong World	50.125	+0.125
Asarco	18.5625	+1
Ascend	38.3125	0
Ashland Coal	19.125	+0.375
Ashland Oil	47.4375	+0.125
Atlantic Energy	20.375	+0
Atlantic Richfld	59	-0.5625
Auto Data Pro	69.0625	-0.875
Autodesk	23.375	-0.1875
Avery Dennison	48.4375	+0.375
Avnet Inc	47.125	-0.5
Avon Products	59.75	-2.25
Balmco Corp	5.875	-0.1875
Baker Hughes	22.125	+3
Ball Corp	31.1875	-1.8125
Baltimore Gas	30.875	+0.0625
Banc One Corp	41.1875	+0.5
Bandag	30.4375	+0
BankAmerica	64	-1.75
Bank of Boston	35.875	-2.75
Bank of New Yk	25.8125	-0.5625
Bankers Trst NY	67.125	-6.375
Barnes & Noble	25.625	-1.8125
Battle Mount Gd	3.875	+0.3125
Bausch & Lomb	40.375	-1.4375
Baxter Intl	56.4375	-0.1875
Bay Network	40	+0.625
Becton Dickinson	19	-0.0625
Bed Bath & Bynd	41.875	+0.25
Bell Atlantic	9.375	-0.25
Bell Industries	65.8125	-0.5625
BellSouth	18.5	-1
HA Belo Corp	-	-
Beneficial Corp	-	-
Bethlehem Steel	7.5625	+0
Beverly Enterps	8.1875	+0.0625
Biomet	29.5625	-1.0625
Black & Decker	44.5625	-1.8125
Boeing	34.5625	+0.5625
Boise Cascade	23.8125	-0.3125
Bowater Inc	37	-1
Briggs & Strtn	38.375	+0.75
Brstl Myrs Sqb	107	+3.5625
Brit Airws ADR	73.0625	-4.0625
Brit Steel ADR	18.125	-0.3125
Brit Telecom	129.563	-3.5
Brown Group	15.375	-0.5
Brown & Sharpe	8.5	0
Browning Ferris	33.1875	+0.1875
Brunswick	15	-0.5625
Burlington Nthn	30	+0.375
Burlington Res	30.875	+0.375
CBS Inc	27.25	-0.3125
CKS Group	13.25	-2
CMS Energy Corp	41.625	-0.4375
CSX Corporation	37.625	+0
Cabot Corp	22.375	-0.3125
Campbell Soup	49.9375	-0.3125
Canadian Pac	21.25	+1
Capital Cts ABC	97	-1.25
Capstead	3.0625	-0.0625
Carematrix Corp	16.625	-0.875
Carnival Corp	26.75	-2.25
Carolina Pwr Lt	42	+0.5
Carpenter Tech	37.9375	+0.0625
Caterpillar	44.875	-0.875
Centex Corp	38.75	-0.5
Central & SW	26.375	-0.1875
Ceridian	51.75	-1.5625
Champion Intl	31.75	-0.75
Chmg Shoppes	4.3125	+0.0625
Chase Manhattan	49.25	-5.625
Chevron Corp	75.6875	+1.5625
Chiquita Brands	11.375	-0.125
Cholestec	5.59375	-0.09375
Chrysler	48.625	-1.0625
Chubb Corp	66.5	-0.5
Cisco	90.625	-1
Citicorp	98.8125	-9.9375
Clavid Cliffs	38.4375	-0.4375
Clorox	92.625	+1.9375
Coastal Corp	27.9375	+0.625
Coca Cola	62	-2.25
Coca Cola Ent	25	+0.125
Colgate Palmolv	71.6875	-1.3125
Comcast Corp A	39.375	-0.8125
Compaq	29.75	-0.375
Compute Ass Int	30.25	-1
Computer Sci	64.125	+0.6875
Conagra	25.9375	-0.0625
Cons Edison	45	+0.25
Cons Freightwys	34.625	+1.4375
Cons Nat Gas	42.625	-0.6875
Cooper Inds	41.875	+0.0625
Coors (Adolph)	45	+0
Corning Inc	23.5625	+0.0625
Crane	39	-0.75
Crompton Knowles	13.5625	-0.3125
Crown Cork Seal	31.625	+0.8125
Cummins Engine	44.625	+1.8125
Curtiss-Wright	43	-1.875
Cypress Semicon	7.25	+0.1875
Cypress Mineral	10.8125	+0.4375
Cytec Indust.	25.3125	+1.8125
DQE	35.8125	+0.0625
Dallas Semi	26.875	-0.25
Dana Corp	40.125	+0.1875
Data General	7.9375	+0.0625
Dayton Hudson	39.5625	-0.0625
De Beers	12.625	+0.125
Deere	34.0625	-0.6875
Dell Computers	108.063	-2.1875
Delta Air Lnes	95.25	-2.5625
Deluxe Corp	28.8125	+0.4375
Detroit Edison	41.5625	+0.125
Dial Corp Del	22.4375	+0.125
Diebold Inc	22.3125	-0.4375
Digital Equip	-	-
Dillard Dep St	30.8125	-0.875
Disney (Walt)	28.3125	-1.5625
Dominion Res	40.4375	-0.4375
Donelley (RR)	37	-0.6875
Dover Corp	26	-0.5
Dow Chemicals	80	-0.4375
Dow Jones	48.4375	-0.625
Dresser	27.625	+0.375
DSC Comm	25.5625	-0.65625
Duke Power	60.5	+0.5625
Dun & Bradst	23.125	-0.9375
Du Pont	56.125	-0.8125
E G & G Corp	22.875	+0.875
Eastern Ents	38.625	-0.375
Eastman Kodak	82	-0.625
Eaton Corp	59.5	+0.125
Echlin Inc	-	-
Egghead Com	7	+0.0625
Emerson Elec	55.25	-1.4375
Engelhard Corp	18.8125	-0.5
Enron Corp	43.6875	-0.8125
Entergy Corp	27.625	-0.3125
Enzo Biochem	7.5625	-0.3125
Equifax Inc	36.875	-0.625
Ericsson	21.5	0
Ethyl Corp	4.5625	-0.25
Exide Corp	9.875	-0.125
Exxon	63.9375	-0.0625
FMC Corp	52.75	+0.0625
FPL Group	63.9375	-0.0625
Fedders Corp	5.0625	-0.1875
Federal Exprss	49.5625	-1.125
Federal Mogul	55.6875	+1.3125
Fed Nat Mtge	59.75	-0.625
First Chicago	66.75	+0
First Union	50.5	-0.3125
Fruit of the Loom	21.75	-0.8125
Fst Union Rlty	6.1875	-0.125
Fleet Finl Grp	70.4375	-1.25
Fleetwd Enterp	33.5	-0.5
Fleming Cos Ok	11.9375	-0.0625
Florida Prog	40.5	-0.75
Fluor Corp	38.5	-1.5
Food Lion Inc	10.1875	+0.0625
Ford Motor	42.5	-2.125
Fortune Brands	26.5	+0.1875
Foster Wheeler	11.8125	-0.75
Furniture Brands	23.125	-0.75
Galoob Toys	7.125	+0.0625
Gateway 2000	47	-0.125
GATX Corp	32.3125	-0.75
GTE Corp	48.6875	-0.125
Gannett	58.125	+0.1875
Gap Inc Del	53	+5
Gencorp	19.875	-1.3125
Gen Am Invest	27.875	+0
Gen Dynamics	47.25	+0.375
Gen Electric	77.75	-2.625
Gen Mills	66	-0.5
Gen Motors	57.3125	-1.75
Gen Motors H	35.3125	-0.5
Gen Public Ut	36.375	-0.125
Gen Reinsurnce	207.938	-5.0625
Gen Signal	36.25	-0.625
Gen DataComm	2.625	-0.1875
Genuine Parts	30.875	-0.875
Georgia Pac	42.0625	-0.0625
Germany Fund	14.75	-0.4375
Gillette	40.75	-1.4375
Glaxo ADR	60.125	+0.875
Golden W Finl	78.625	-1.125
Goodrich (BF)	30.3125	-0.8125
Goodyear Tire	46.9375	-1.0625
Grace (W&R)	13	+0
Grainger (WW)	40.75	-0.4375
Grt Atl Pac Tea	34	-0.5625
Grt Central Mine	1.9375	+0.1875
Gulf Canada Res	3.25	-0.0625
Halliburton	27.875	+1.25
Hanna (MA)	11.5	-0.375
Harcourt	46.5	-1.3125
Harley Davidson	31	-0.375
Harnischfeger	18.625	-0.0625
Harrah's Ent	16	+0.125
Harris Corp	33.5	-0.9375
Harsco Corp	37	+1
Hartmax	8.75	-0.1875
Hasbro	33.4375	-1.5625
HBO & Co	24.3125	+0.25
Health Care Ppt	31.8125	+0.1875
Hecla Mining	3.875	+0.4375
Heinz (HJ)	50.875	-0.375
Helix Technol	10	-0.625
Hmrch & Payne	18.875	-0.5625
Hercules	27.75	+0.75
Hershey Foods	64.375	-1.875
Hewlett Packard	48.6875	-0.1875
Hilton Hotels	20.375	+0
Hirsch Int	2.625	+0.125
Hollinger	14.4375	-0.25
Home Depot	39.6875	-0.9375
Homestake	11.0625	+1.375
Honeywell	65.8125	+1
Hormel (Geo)	28	+0
Household Intl	37.1875	-0.8125
Houston Inds	28.375	-0.625
Humana	14.8125	-0.3125

	LAST	CHANGE*
IBM	121.75	+1.25
Ilinova Corp	25.5	-0.1875
Ilinois Tool	47.5	-1.6875
INCO	8.625	+0.5
Ind Comm Bank	12.625	-0.375
Ingersoll Rand	39.1875	-1.875
Inland Steel	18.1875	-0.4375
Intel Corp	76.75	+1.875
Intergraph	5.5625	-0.3125
Interlake	2.9375	+0.0625
Intl Flav & Fr	37.625	-0.4375
Intl Multifoods	17.625	-0.375
Intl Paper	38.6875	+0.4375
Interpublic	52.8125	-2.8125
Jefferson Plt	57.0625	-0.5
Johnson & J	74.875	+2.1875
K Mart	13	+0
Kaiser Alum	8	-0.25
Kellogg	31.625	+0.25
KLA Instruments	22.8125	-2.5625
Kennametal	26.375	+0.125
Kerr-McGee	40.6875	+0.875
KeyCorp	27.3125	-1.125
Kimberly-Clark	38.375	+0.375
King World Prod	22.75	-0.4375
Knight Ridder	47.0625	+0.6875
Kroger	47.5	-1.625
LSI Logic	11.5625	-0.625
Leggett & Platt	20.125	-0.0625
Leucadia Natl	26.875	+0.0625
Lilly (Eli)	72.3125	+3.0625
Limited Inc	23.4375	+0.625
Linear Technol	49.75	-3.625
Lincoln Natl	86.5	-0.6875
Litton	50.75	+1.1875
Liz Claiborne	28.6875	-0.8125
Lockheed Corp	93	+0.8125
Loews Corp	82.1875	-0.0625
Lone Star	58.8125	-0.9375
Longs Drug Strs	34.875	+0.6875
Loral Corp	16.125	-1.4375
Louisiana Pacif	19.875	+0
Lowe's Co Inc	36	-0.6875
Lucent Tech	78	-1.25
Lubrizol	24.25	-0.1875
Madge	3.125	+0
MCI Commun	58.25	+1.875
Mallinckrodt	22.1875	-0.5
Manor Care	24.3125	+0.6875
Mapco Inc	-	-
MarketSpan Corp	28.75	-0.0625
Marriot	28	-0.875
Mrsh & McLn	49.3125	+0.5625
Marvel	-	-
Masco Corp	23.0625	-0.8125
Massmutual Corp	21.6875	+0.125
Mattel Inc	36.625	+0.5625
May Dept St	57.1875	-1.5
Maytag Corp	44.75	+0.1875
McDermott	20.75	+0.25
McDonalds	57.9375	-0.875
McGraw Hill	78.3125	+1.0625
McKesson Corp	77.4375	-2
Mead Corp	27.5625	-0.5625
Medtronic	56.75	+1.875
Mellon Bk	53.875	-1.1875
Mentor Graphics	7.28125	-0.28125
Merck Inc	123.5	+3.5
Meredith Corp	33.875	-0.4375
Merrill Lynch	64	-3.8125
Micron Technol	24.875	+0.9375
Microsoft Corp	99.25	-1.3125
Millipore	22.3125	-0.3125
Mine Safety App	72	-0.5
Minnesota Mine	70.6875	+1.5625
Mitchell Energy	13.8125	+0.0625
Mobil Corp	71.1875	+0.1875
Mobile Telecom	-	-
Molex Inc	22.5	-0.25
Monarch Macht	7.5	-0.3125
Monsanto	52.1875	-1.75
Morgan (JP)	88.75	-8.5
Morton Intl	24.5	+0.0625
Motorola Inc	40.0625	-1.9375
Murphy Oil	35.5625	+0.3125
Nacco Inds	105.75	-4.25
Nalco Chemical	28.5	-0.5625
Nashua Corp	14	+0
NationsBank	57.25	-1.5
Natl City Corp	61.25	-0.6875
Natl Semi	9.375	-0.3125
Natl Serv Ind	34.3125	-1.4375
NatWest Bank	84.5	-3.75
Navistar Int	23.25	+1.625
Netscape	21	-1.625
New England El	40.625	+0.125
News Corp	24.5	-0.625
NY State El Gas	-	-
NY Times	28.375	+0.0625
Newmont Mining	17.25	+2.75
Niag Mohawk	15.0625	-0.3125
Nicor Inc	37.5	-0.1875
Nike Inc	33.5	+1.75
NL Industries	21.0625	+0
Noble Affil	25	+1
Nokia	70.25	-3
Nordstrom	27.25	-0.625
Norfolk Southrn	28	-0.9375
Northeast Util	14.75	-0.1875
Northern Telecom	50.5	-1.1875
Novell	10	-0.5
Nthn State Pwr	26.6875	-0.0625
Northrop	82.5	-0.8125
Norwest Corp	30.625	-0.375
NSI	0.5	+0
Occidental Pet	18.8125	-0.0625
Ogden Corp	24.25	-0.75
OEA	8.5	-0.4375
Ohio Casualty	37.6875	-0.53125
Olin Corp	29.375	-0.0625
Omnicom Group	48.3125	-2.4375
Oneok Inc	30.8125	+0.1875
Oracle Systems	19.0625	-1.25
Oryx Energy Co	11.125	-0.25
Oshkosh B'gosh	40.25	+0.25
Overseas Ship	17.6875	-0.875
Owens Corning	33.0625	-1.25
PNC Financial	44.375	-0.6875
PPG Industries	52.9375	+1.375
Paccar Inc	42.5625	+0.9375
Pacificorp	22.125	+0
Pac Enterprises	-	-
Pac Gas & Elect	31.25	+0.125
Pall Corp	21.0625	-0.125
Parker Drilling	4.4375	+0.3125
Parker Hannifin	29.8125	+0.4375
Payless Shoe	40.0625	-0.8125
Penney(JC)	52.3125	-0.9375
Pennsyl Pwr Lt	23.4375	+0
Pennzoil	37.375	+0.375
People's Energy	33.3125	+0
Pepsico	30.875	-0.1875
Perkin Elmer	58.1875	-2.3125
Pfizer	99.875	-0.1875
Pharmacia & Upj	44.5625	+0.4375
Phelps Dodge	48	+2.3125
Philadel Elec	31.875	-0.1875
Philip Morris	42.875	+0.5
Phillips Elec	63	-0.5625
Phillips Pet	43	+0.4375
Phycor Inc	5.5	-0.5
Pioneer Hi Bred	31.6875	-0.8125
Pitney Bowes	48.75	-0.375
Policy Mgt Sys	42.4375	-0.1875
Polycom	10.3125	+0.6875
Potash Corp	54	-0.625
Potomac El Pwr	24.125	+0.125
Procter & Gamble	76.8125	-2
Promus Hotel Cor	29.5	-1.125
Pub Svc Enterpr	36.375	-0.375
Pug Snd Pwr	25.4375	+0
Quaker Oats	53.25	-0.5
Qualcom	44.0625	-3.1875
Quanex Corp	23	+0.5
RJR Nabisco	23.375	-0.125
Ralston Purina	27.375	-0.375
Rank Orgnsn ADR	8.75	-0.5
Raychem Corp	29.0625	-0.25
Raytheon A	40.375	-2.3125
Raytheon B	41.3125	-2.1875
Reebok Intl	15.3125	-0.375
Republic NY	38.875	-2.3125
Reynolds Reyn A	13.1875	-0.4375
Reynolds Metals	50.875	+0.8125
Rite Aid Corp	38.125	-0.375
Rockwell Intl	38.1875	-0.5
Rohm & Haas	29.4375	+1.1875
Rouse	28	-0.125
Rowan	11.5625	+0.6875
Royal Dutch	45.4375	+0.75
Rubbermaid	27.0625	-0.125
Ruddick	15.875	-0.5
Russell Corp	30.0625	-0.9375
Ryder System	20	-2.9375
SPS Technology	41.1875	-1.0625
Safeco Corp	41.1875	+0.3125
Safety-Kleen	3.0625	-0.125
St Paul's Cos	29.5625	-0.6875
Sara Lee Corp	49.0625	+0.3125
Schering Plough	93.75	+0.5625
Schlumberger	47.25	+1.375
Scientif Atlanta	19	-0.75
Scripps	44.625	-0.625
Seagate Tech	18.5	+0.4375
Seagram	32.0625	+0.25
Sears Roebuck	47.3125	-0.6875
Sempra Energy	25	-0.0625
Sensormatic Elec	8.25	+0.125
Sequent Computer	8.9375	-0.1875
Service Corp I	33.75	-0.25
Service Master	20.5	-0.375
Shell Trans	34.125	+0.1875
Sherwin Wllms	25.0625	-0.25
Shoney's Inc	2.3125	-0.3125
Sigma Aldrich	29.125	-0.375
Silicon Graphics	10	+0.375
Skyline Corp	27.5	-0.75
Smith Intl	19.5625	+0.8125
SmKline Bchm A	57.4375	+0.6875
Snap-On-Tools	28.875	+2.6875
Sonat	27.5	-0.625
Sonocco Prods	24.8125	-0.9375
Sony Corp ADR	73.5	-0.3125
Southdown	48.25	-0.8125
Southern Co	26.625	-0.1875
Sth N. Eng Tel	64.3125	-0.0625
Southw Airlines	17.9375	-0.1875
SBC Sthwstn Bell	36.75	-0.4375
Spring Inds	33.6875	-0.9375
Sprint Corp	64.75	+1.1875
Standard Prods	24.875	-0.4375
Stanley Works	38.25	-0.375
Stone Container	11.375	+0.3125
Storage Technol	25.125	-0.5
Stratus Comp	27.6875	+0.125
Sun America	2.4375	+0.125
Sunbeam Corp	7.9375	+0
Sun Company	30.875	-0.5
Sundstrand	44.4375	-1.125
Sun Microsystms	40.4375	-1.3125
Sunshine Mining	0.6875	+0
Suntrust	58.1875	-0.8125
Supervalu	21.1875	+0.4375
Symantec	20.25	-0.0625
Sysco Corp	21.875	+0.4375
TJX Cos Inc	20.625	-1.9375
TRW Inc	45	+0
Tab Products	10.625	+0
Tandy Corp	52	-0.9375
Telecom Corp	33.75	-0.1875
Telefonos de Mex	37.0625	-2.4375
Telef De Espana	112.25	-5.25
Temple Inland	44.0625	-1.75
Tenneco	33.0625	+1.0625
Tenet Health	27.4375	-0.25
Teradyne	18	-1.1875

	LAST	CHANGE*
Tesoro Pet	12.25	-0.75
Texaco	57.6875	+0.4375
Texas Instruments	50.5625	+0.3125
Texas Utilities	41.8125	+0.125
Textron	62.5	-2.0625
Thiokol	-	-
Thomas & Betts	33.8125	+0.125
ThreeCom	24.375	-1.5625
Time Warner	85	+0.625
Times-Mirror	56.125	-1
Timken	17.875	+0.0625
Torchmark	36.625	-0.3125
Tosco Corp	22.125	+0.25
Toys R Us	19.5	-0.4375
Transamerica	102.063	-3.5625
Transco Energy	52.0625	+1.5625
Travellers Grp	41.125	-3.375
Tribune	60.5	-0.5
Triton Energy	11.1875	-0.0625
TWA	6	-0.375
Tyco Intl Ltd	54.8125	-0.9375
Tyler	7	-0.3125
-		
UAL Corp	58.75	-3.125
USG Corp	43.625	-1.125
UST Inc	27	+0
USX Marathon	27.6875	+0.125
USX-US Steel	22.0625	+0.3125
Ultramar Diam	24.625	+0.625
Unocom Corp	34.75	+0.25
Unilever PLC	36.6875	-1.3125
Unilever NV	86.25	-0.75
Union Camp	36.125	-0.375
Union Carbide	39.625	-1.125
Union Pacific	39.6875	+0.4375
Unisys Corp	19.875	-0.9375
USAIR Group	50.75	-1.75
USF&G Corp	-	-
US Home	29.0625	-0.6875
US Surgical	40.6875	-1.5
US Trust	63.25	-0.75
US West	49.3125	+0.875
United Tech	75.5	-3.1875
Unocal Corp	33	+1.1875
-		
VF Corp	39	+0.0625
VMRX Pharmaceutic	1.4375	+0.34375
Valero Energy	19.5625	+0.9375
Varian Assoc	32.9375	-0.6875
Viacom Inc	56.75	-0.625
Vishay	10.75	-0.125
Vulcan Materials	109.938	-2.5
-		
Wachovia	76.75	-1.375
Walgreen	41.25	-0.3125
Wal-Mart Stores	59.9063	+0.03125
Warner-Lambert	70.1875	+2.25
Wash Gas Light	24.0625	-0.125
Washington Mutu	34.5	+0.0625
Washington Post	509	-5
Waste Mgmnt Inc	44.5625	-0.8125
Watkins-Johnson	20.375	-0.1875
Wells Markets	34.125	-1.0625
Wells Fargo	300.188	-5.8125
Wendy's Intl	21	-0.375
Westvaco	22.0625	+0.0625
Weyerhaeuser	37.75	-0.375
Whirlpool	47	-1.125
Whitman	17	+0.375
Williams Co	23.1875	+0.125
Winn Dixie Stos	38.75	-0.3125
Woolworth	9.125	-0.4375
World Comm	47.375	0
Worthington Ind	12.5313	-0.46875
Wrigley	74.875	-0.5
-		
Xerox	90.1875	-5.125
-		
Yahoo	75.1875	-2.5625
Yellow Freight	12.0313	-0.09375
-		
Zero Co	-	-

LONDON

Allied Domecq	486	-12.5
BAT Inds	587	-9
BT	788	-14.5
BTR	129.75	+0.75
Barclays	1194	-33
Bass	811	+17
Boots	1035	+0
British Airways	440	-26.5
Comm Union plc	911	-19
Diageo	582.5	-30.5
General Electric	419	-10
Glaxo	1788	+0
Halifax	736	-10.5
HSBC (75p shs)	1155	-39
ICI	565	-19
Lend Securities	903	+6.5
Lloyds Bank	657	-52
Marks & Spencer	332	-15.5
NatWest Bank	941	-62
Prudential	834.5	-20.5
Reuters	482	-4
Sainsbury	524	-11.5
Shell Transport	330	-4
Tyco Intl	3250	+0
Unilever	556	-23
Zeneca	2200	-59

PARIS

Accor	1392	-63
Air Liquide	815	-25
Alcatel Alsthom	337	-43
Euro Disney	9.8	-0.15
Moulinex	105.9	-5.1
Paribas	478	-22
Pernod Ricard	400	-13.8
Peugeot	942	-51
Saint Gobain	885	-26

FRANKFURT

Bayer	66	-3.2
Daimler-Benz	161	-3.7
Lufthansa	41.6	-1.4
Mannesmann	160.2	-5.3
Metallgesellschaft	30.8	+0.3
Volkswagen	123.5	-8.1

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 3-SEP-98)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

	Last	Change
Sel (Basket) (1)	4.1755	0
U.S. Dollar (1)	3.838	0
British Pound (1)	6.4649	0
Deutsch Mark (1)	2.2235	0
French Franc (1)	0.6628	0
Japanese Yen (100)	2.832	0
Swiss Franc (1)	2.7076	0
Canadian Dollar (1)	2.5011	0
Italian Lira (1000)	2.2513	0
Jordanian Dinar (1)	5.3924	0

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	7682.22	-100.15
DJ Transport	2624.47	-78.08
DJ Utils	272.36	-0.51
DJ Comp	2421.55	-35.97
NYSE Industr	609.28	-2.93
NYSE Transport	394.03	-10.89
NYSE Comp	489.89	-4.74
S&P 100	481.33	-4.68
S&P Spot Index	982.26	-8.22
Israel Index	189.09	-2.72

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	5118.7	-117.1
Tokyo Nikkei	14261.2	-115.4
Singapore all-share Index	255.09	-1.6
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index	7318.5	-37.1
Israel Index	189.09	-2.72
Paris CAC 40	3646.46	-89.21
DAX	4970.5	+178.69
Madrid	765.62	-23.98
Swiss Market Index	6805.7	-235.8
Sydney	2513.3	-2.7
Milan	1326.2	+34.23

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

	Last	Change
Pound: spot	1.6745	+0.0063
Sep.future (CME)	1.6728	+0.0042
D-mark: spot	1.7292	-0.0216
Sep.future (CME)	0.5782	+0.0061
S-franc: spot	1.4187	-0.0247
Sep.future (CME)	0.7053	+0.0113
Yen: spot	134.25	-3.95
Sep.future (CME)	0.007433	+0.000152
CanDlr: spot	1.5391	+0.0004
Sep.future (CME)	0.6504	+0.0019
AusDlr: spot	0.5847	+0.0016
Sep.future (CME)	0.5649	+0.0006
F-franc: spot	5.8005	-0.0625
It Lira: spot	1707.5	-21.75
Nlg: spot	1.9512	-0.025
AutShlg: spot	12.1521	-0.1668
Rand: spot	6.225	-0.05
ECU: spot	1.1397	+0.0119

US COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Sep) (CEC)	1573	-23
Coffee (Sep) (CEC)	118.25	-0.75
Wheat (Sep) (CBOT)	244.25	+4.25
Soybean (Sep) (CBOT)	524	-1.25
Sugar (Oct) (CEC)	7.54	-0.16
Orange juice (Sep)(CEC)	115.05	-0.45
Crude Oil (Dec)(NYMEX)	15.08	+0.9
Bonds Sep.future	127.25	+0.53125
S and P Sep.future	986	-4.8

LONDON COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Sep) (LCE)	1034	-12
Coffee (Sep) (LCE)	1668	+8
Brent crude oil (Dec)(IPE)	1388	+88

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

	Last	Change
Silver: spot	4.95	+0.1

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

	Last	Change
Gold (Dec)	288.3	+4.9
Silver (Sep)	4.888	+0.11
Platinum (Oct)	370.1	+0.2
Palladium (Sep)	286.3	+4.3
High-grade copper (Sep)	0.752	+0.0085

LONDON METAL FIXES

	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	279.65	-0.35
Gold PM fix	279.15	-1
Silver fix	4.81	-3.8

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date (Spot market listings are from approximately 23.30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 3-SEP-98)

TASE falls, tracking European shares

Tel Aviv

Stocks dropped for a second day, following declines in European stocks, as a plunge in the Russian ruble renewed concern economies around the world will slow, reducing global demand and company earnings.

Dead Sea Bromine, an Israeli maker of flame-retardant chemicals which reaps more than 95 percent of its revenue abroad, dropped 6.46% to 24.60 shekels, sending the Maof Index of the 25 largest companies down 1.73% to 287.85.

Dead Sea lost 26% of its value in the past two weeks on prospects financial upheavals in Russia and Asia will cut demand.

Israeli stocks are "affected by the momentum around the world," said Moshe Jonas who manages $1.4 million in Israeli assets for Moritz & Tuchler in Tel Aviv. "I'm selling more than I'm buying and I have increased my cash holding by 20 percent," in the past week, he added.

Jonas said he is favoring shares in the nation's largest banks, which have lost more than a sixth of their value in August alone.

First International Bank of Israel, the nation's fifth-largest bank, fell 3.64% to 21.20 shekels, extending losses for a third day. Its shares lost 21% of their value in the past five weeks.

Israel Discount Bank, the country's third-largest bank, fell 2.65% to 3.68 shekels, extending losses for a third day. Its share price dropped 16.5% in August.

Europe

UK stocks fell for the fifth day in six, with the benchmark index erasing its gains for the year. Banks led the decline on concern widespread recession in emerging markets will crimp corporate profit growth for Britain's multinational companies.

"You've got a large portion of the world facing financial crisis," said Simon Smith, who helps manage about 4 billion pounds ($6.68 billion) in UK equities at Albert E Sharp. "I can see this year being one of very little gains" for the stock market.

The benchmark FTSE 100 Index dropped 117.1 points, or 2.24 percent, to 5118.7, it's lowest since January 14 and closing below 5193.5,, where it started the year. The index has lost 0.335 for the year. Lloyds TSB Group Plc fell 54 pence to 657p, Barclays Plc dropped 89p to 1,194, HSBC Holdings Plc fell 37p to 1,155 and National Westminster Bank Plc lost 59p to 941.

Smith said he has new money that he's not investing yet, although if he were to buy shares he'd look at multinationals "not exposed to Russia and Asia."

Barclays, the UK's second largest bank, extended losses after it said Tuesday it expects to take a 250 million-pound charge to cover losses from lending money to Russia and trading Russian securities. "There's certainly potential for further downside," said Gareth Williams, a UK strategist at ABN Amro. "A scare has ended, but

STOCKS

Maof 287.85 ▼ 1.73%

Dow Jones 7682 ▼ 1.29%

FTSE 5118.7 ▼ 2.24%

Nikkei 14261.24 ▼ 0.8%

who's to say that it won't re-emerge? There's a lot of things out there that could upset investors." Simon Toynbee, a senior investment manager who helps look after 200 million pounds for Majedie Investments Plc, agreed.

"Where is the next horror story coming from?" he asked.

"There may be some portfolio realignment to the safety of fixed income."

Asia

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 Index led declines in Asian shares after Hitachi Ltd., the nation's largest electronics maker, said it will post a full-year loss for the first time. Stocks were mixed in Hong Kong, fell in Singapore and Taiwan and rose in Malaysia after the government cut interest rates.

The Nikkei fell 115.38 points, or 0.80%, to 14,261.24, led by Hitachi, which said it will post a 250 billion yen ($1.8 billion) loss for the year to March, reversing its forecast four months ago of a 40 billion yen profit. Gains by bank shares, which account for almost 13% of the broader index, cushioned the fall.

Hitachi, which derives 70% of its revenues from domestic sales, is seeing profits squeezed by the country's worst recession in five decades and plummeting prices for microchips on world markets.

"Hitachi surprised the market with a complete about-face on earnings," said Hitoshi Yajima, director of Tachibana Investment & Management Ltd.

As stocks fell in Tokyo, Asia's biggest market by value, the dollar slumped to 135.55 against the yen after Japan warned anew it may try to boost its currency by selling the US currency.

Hong Kong stocks were mixed as the government forced investors to clear about HK$1.36 billion ($175.7 million) of unsettled trades in its latest effort to squeeze speculators out of the market. The benchmark Hang Seng Index fell 0.5% to 7,201.44.

Elsewhere in Asia, many investors sold stocks amid concern that regional economies won't recover from their worst recession in decades anytime soon.

"Investors are selling out of Asia," said Gilbert Wong, managing director at BNP Prime Peregrine Securities Ltd. "And Hong Kong is the most liquid market." Taiwan's main stock index took its biggest drop in almost two weeks on concern the slowing economy will hurt corporate earnings. (Bloomberg)

Wall Street

US stocks ended lower yesterday, extending their slide into a second straight session, as Wall Street fretted that the economic sickness in Asia and Russia might now spread to Latin America.

The Dow Jones industrial average was off 100.15 points, or almost 1.3%, at 7,682.22.

Declining issues beat advances by a more than 2-to-1 margin on heavy volume of 878 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

The Nasdaq composite index was off 20.98 points, or 1.3%, at 1,571.87.

Wall Street stocks were rattled by the steep losses in stock markets in Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela, a day after Colombia devalued its currency, which fueled speculation that other countries in the region might also devalue.

"People are definitely starting to wonder when this is going to crack in Latin America," said Paul Rich, a trader at BT Brokerage.

Tuesday's devaluation of the Colombian peso was the first major change in any Latin American country's exchange rate policy since the start of the Asian crisis last year.

The big movers among blue chips included J.P. Morgan & Co., off 7-1/8 at 88, General Electric Co., down 2-5/8 at 77-3/4 and Walt Disney, off 1-11/16 to 28-3/16. (Reuters)

Mark rises to 9-month high against dollar

The dollar fell to a nine-month low against the mark after a German central bank official suggested interest rates in Europe's largest economy won't be cut because of economic turmoil in Russia.

Bundesbank council member Ernst Welteke said reducing rates is not the answer to the economic crises in Russia and Asia.

Speculation grew in recent days that the US and others would cut rates to try to counter the effects of a recession in Asia and turmoil in Russia.

"I think it's very unlikely Germany will bring rates down," said John Parker, who helps oversee 1.6 billion pounds ($2.69 billion) at Pavilion Asset Management. He sold the dollar last week, when it was worth more than 1.80 marks. "The mark seems to be the place to be at the moment," he said.

The dollar fell to 1.7243 marks, its weakest since November 18, from 1.7535 late Wednesday in London. It fell by more than 2 yen to 135.33 yen, as Japanese officials warned once again they may sell dollars to support Japan's currency.

The Bundesbank yesterday left its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 3.30 percent, as expected. Speculation German rates will remain the same in the coming months, while US rates fall, makes mark-denominated assets relatively more attractive compared with dollar-denominated assets.

CURRENCIES

Dollar 3.8380 ▲ 0.74%

Basket 4.1455 ▲ 1.3%

Mark 2.2235 ▲ 2.35%

Sterling 6.4949 ▲ 1.84%

In Japan, Vice Finance Minister for International Affairs Eisuke Sakakibara warned Japanese investors holding foreign assets to be wary of the risk of the yen strengthening. Haruhiko Kuroda, director-general of the Finance Ministry's international bureau, said Japan is ready to buy yen whenever necessary.

"Sakakibara and Kuroda seem to want an even stronger yen," said Steve Barrow, a currency analyst at Bear Stearns International, who's cut his forecast for dollar strengthening to 150 yen by year-end, from 160.

The yen has already gained about 4% against the US currency this week, boosted by warnings from Japan. Since the dollar reach an eight-year high against the yen of 147.66 on August 11, Japan has threatened almost daily it is ready to sell dollars to stem the yen's decline. It is still down more than 3% against the US currency this year as the Japanese economy has slumped in its worst recession since World War II.

Japan and the US last sold dollars for yen on June 17, a day after the dollar rose to what was then an eight-year high of 146.78 yen. The action helped shave 13 yen off the dollar's value in the following days.

Sakakibara said Japanese investors who hold foreign-currency-denominated assets should "take note of the risk" that the yen will strengthen. Those investors "have been burned in the past by making light of the risk. It's risky to take foreign exchange positions under current circumstances," he said. (Bloomberg)

Gold stuck in choppy trading

Gold remained rangebound in choppy European trading yesterday afternoon as the Dow Jones index weakened, casting further gloom on world equity markets, dealers said.

Gold was quoted at $279.70/$280.20 an ounce, just up from the previous New York close at $279.90/$280.40. It traded in a $2.20 range in Europe.

The rest of the precious metals complex followed gold in choppy trade. "They are all really stuck in no-man's land, probably waiting to see how the volatility in the financial markets plays out," one London dealer said.

Long liquidation in Asia overnight by market participants caught unaware by the latest increase in the yen, was blamed for some of the weakness in precious metals. Dealers said they saw good selling above the market in gold.

"Gold has held well considering the amount of selling it has seen over the last couple of weeks but in the light of how the yen is performing, it is not behaving particularly well. It is choppy and around this area it is quite a sensitive area," the dealer said.

The yen has long been seen as a indicator for Asian gold demand and was quoted at 134.30 yen/dollar.

Bullion has retreated from trying to break through the $282.00 level where analysts said the market was capped by producer forward selling.

COMMODITIES

Gold $280.35 ▲ 0.2%

Crude Oil $12.96 ▲ 0.5%

CRB 199.95 ▲ 0.5%

Weaker producer currencies like the Australian dollar and South African rand meant producers would get more for their gold in Australian dollars and South African rand.

Investment bank JP Morgan said in a report yesterday that the impact of the turbulence in global markets and currencies would offset the seasonal recovery in global gold demand.

JP Morgan analyst Kevin Crisp said in a report that in the current global financial crisis gold had been sidelined. He said gold prices are expected to remain weak and possibly test the $250.00-$260.00 range before the end of the year.

He said the role of the jewellery sector was the crucial factor behind gold's poor performance. :Economic factors and falling currencies have conspired to dampen consumer spending in many of the major markets for gold jewellery. This combination has delivered a body blow to jewellery demand, a crucial prop for the modern gold market," Crisp said.

Canada said yesterday it had sold 128,000 ounces of gold in August which bolstered its reserves by around $44 million.

Dealers said gold largely ignored the news because the amount sold was not enough to affect the market.

Silver continued lower with gold and was last quoted just down at $4.82/$4.85 from the New York close at $4.83/$4.86.

Platinum was at $364.50/$366.50 against the close at $367.50/$369.50.

Palladium was quoted at $277.00/$283.00 from the close at $279.50/$283.50. (Reuters)

US bonds rise as traders seek haven from stocks

US bonds rose as investors bought Treasury securities as a refuge from tumbling stock markets.

"Bonds continue to dance to the tune of global share prices," said George Adell, a trader at Philadelphia-based Starboard Capital Markets Inc. "As long as investors are a little squeamish on stocks, the money flows into Treasuries."

The 30-year Treasury bond rose 14/32, or $4.38 per $1,000 bond, pushing its yield down 3 basis points to 5.30 percent. Two- year note yields fell 6 basis points to 4.87 percent.

Bonds rose as stocks fell across Europe and in the US in the first minutes of trading. Stocks fell as the Russian ruble plunged and traders fretted that the recent turmoil in global financial markets will cause economies to slow around the world.

Demand for bonds has ebbed and flowed in recent days with gains and losses in US and other stock markets.

On Monday, bonds surged and yields fell as low as 5.23 percent — the lowest since the US started regular sales of the securities in 1977 — amid a 6.4 percent plunge in the Dow Jones Industrial Average. Bonds then gave back some gains as stocks rebounded a bit.

BONDS

US 30 -year T-bill yield

5.3 ▼ 0.03

Investors are also waiting for today's government report on US employment in August for signs of whether the world's largest economy is slowing at all after growing at a 3.5% annual pace in the first six months of the year.

The government will probably report that the economy gained 375,000 jobs last month, suggesting that the employment market is still strong. The unemployment rate is expected to decline to 4.4% from 4.5% in July. Average hourly earnings are expected to climb 0.4% in August, compared with a 0.2% rise the month earlier.

A robust jobs market could force employers to pay higher wages to attract workers, passing the expenses on to consumers in the form of higher prices. That is seen as one reason the Federal Reserve may be reluctant to lower interest rates to try to alleviate turmoil in global financial markets when its policy board next meets, on September 29.

Still, some investors expect the Fed will cut interest rates because the yield on the 30-year bond has dropped below the Fed's 5.50 percent target for overnight loans between banks. (Bloomberg)

ROSS

Continued from Page 1

The Israeli proposal, submitted in writing last month but not formally announced, is for a full withdrawal from 10% of the West Bank, but only a limited one from the remaining 3%. The 3% would become a nature reserve, in which Israel would retain full security control.

A senior official in the Prime Minister's Office added that Ross would not be coming unless he was sure progress was going to be made.

"Ross has come and gone empty-handed so many times," said the official, "...he cannot afford another senseless trip."

The Palestinians also welcomed the Ross visit, but complained that Netanyahu was playing "word games" by trying to package a 10% withdrawal as one of 13% – and then blaming the Palestinians for rejecting it.

According to Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat, the Palestinians have given a "firm yes" to the original US proposal, but not to the "10-plus-three" Israeli offer.

The blame for the deadlock, he stressed, is to be placed firmly in Israel's lap.

"All we want is one word from Mr. Netanyahu, and that is 'yes,'" said Erekat, "and we will apparently continue waiting for it."

Erekat said the two letters sent by Arafat to Clinton last month complaining about the stalemate in the talks may have been the catalyst for the president's renewed personal involvement in the negotiations.

US Embassy spokesman Larry Schwartz warned both sides against being too optimistic regarding the Ross visit or Clinton's apparent newly energized efforts to personally push the process forward.

"We are guardedly optimistic about Ross's reported visit, but would not want to prejudice the outcome of the discussions," said Schwartz, who also tried to downplay the optimistic spin the government put on the Clinton-Netanyahu phone call.

"The outline of an agreement is becoming clearer, but there is a great need to nibble around the sides. The victory will be in the details, but as of yet there are no signing ceremonies planned," he said.

Meanwhile, MK Michael Kleiner (Gesher) said that all the talk about Ross's visit and the ongoing deadlock in the process was of secondary importance, as he had information regarding secret talks being held between Israeli and Palestinian officials on the island of Rhodes, with the knowledge of the Americans.

According to Kleiner, the talks, which began several months ago, started out as an informal way of hammering out ideas regarding the final-status talks, and soon became an official, albeit secret, channel.

Palestinian, Israeli, and US officials have all denied such talks are taking place.

Netanyahu's spokesman Aviv Bushinsky called the report "ridiculous," and said academic meetings between Israelis and Palestinians had taken place on Rhodes, but nothing further.

Kleiner said his information came from several sources, including an interview with one of the Palestinian participants.

He claimed that the secret talks have already yielded results, with the Palestinian delegates agreeing to step back from their demands regarding Jerusalem and refugees – in return for Israeli recognition of a Palestinian state.

"I am not for secret channels, but I am a firm supporter of reaching a final-status agreement as soon as possible," said Kleiner. "All these negotiations on the interim agreements are only creating trouble, while moving straight to the final-status agreement is the only healthy thing to do."

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	4.770	4.800	5.090
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.550	5.540	5.620
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.180	2.280	2.700
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.060	0.190	0.560
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (3.9.98)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Buy	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Sell	BANKNOTES Buy	BANKNOTES Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	4.1132	4.1796	—	—	4.1455
U.S. dollar	3.8123	3.8738	3.74	3.93	3.8380
German mark	2.2016	2.2372	2.16	2.27	2.2235
Pound sterling	6.4039	6.5072	6.29	6.60	6.4649
French franc	0.6567	0.6673	0.64	0.68	0.6628
Japanese yen (100)	2.8067	2.8520	2.75	2.90	2.8321
Dutch florin	1.9502	1.9817	1.91	2.01	1.9700
Swiss franc	2.6781	2.7213	2.63	2.76	2.7076
Swedish krona	0.4839	0.4918	0.47	0.50	0.4871
Norwegian krone	0.4936	0.5016	0.48	0.51	0.4961
Danish krone	0.5781	0.5875	0.56	0.60	0.5823
Finnish mark	0.7237	0.7354	0.71	0.75	0.7306
Canadian dollar	2.4876	2.5278	2.44	2.57	2.5011
Australian dollar	2.1968	2.2323	2.15	2.27	2.2040
S. African rand	0.6124	0.6223	0.55	0.63	0.6165
Belgian franc (10)	1.0673	1.0846	1.04	1.10	1.0775
Austrian schilling (10)	3.1291	3.1796	3.07	3.23	3.1603
Italian lira (1000)	2.2286	2.2646	2.19	2.30	2.2513
Jordanian dinar	5.3543	5.4407	5.26	5.65	5.3924
Egyptian pound	—	—	1.08	1.18	1.1514
ECU	4.3381	4.4061	—	—	4.3813
Irish punt	5.5240	5.6131	5.42	5.70	5.5762
Spanish peseta (100)	2.5904	2.6322	2.54	2.67	2.6162

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

هكذا من الاصل

At the Kremlin this week, Presidents Yeltsin and Clinton discuss Russia's economic crisis, which has sent markets and the ruble plummeting. (AP)

For richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health

In the wake of the crisis in global financial markets, will the world's economy simply melt down? Most likely not, experts say – but things aren't improving any. The deciding factor will be the impact of stock market declines on consumer buying decisions, Anne Swardson reports

Carnage in the markets and economies of Asia and Russia. Steep declines in the financial markets of New York and European capitals. At what point does it all cause layoffs in the US and Europe?

That is, will the crisis in global financial markets lead to a crisis in the world economy? Will the troubled developing regions of the world pull the healthy components – the US and Western Europe, mostly – into a recession? Will the world economy melt down?

Most likely not, say experts, but things sure aren't improving any, and policymakers have a slimmer margin for maneuvering.

"There is no longer an international economic buffer in Europe and the United States," said Andrew Bernard, a professor of economics at the Yale School of Management. "Any mistakes in policy will be felt immediately. All the other economies are in bad shape or difficulty."

The deciding factor, economists on both side of the Atlantic said, will be the impact of stock market declines on consumer buying decisions.

If people put off purchases because the plummeting Dow – or the DAX in Frankfurt or the CAC-40 index in Paris – leaves them feeling poorer, the world economy will feel the pain.

"An economy is not a machine. It reacts to the decisions of millions of people, and people are funny creatures," said Max Steuer, an economist at the London School of Economics. "If enough people think it is a real disaster, it is a real disaster."

YET the crisis in world financial markets comes as both the US and Europe, which together account for about two-thirds of the world's economic output, are in excellent economic health.

In Europe, 11 of whose countries are preparing to unify their currencies beginning in January, inflation and interest rates are low, and growth is healthy.

In the US, unemployment is below five percent and interest rates are at their lowest levels since the 1960s.

There are essentially two ways for that health to be eroded by the economic troubles in Asia, Russia and – now that it is caught in the downdraft – Latin America, experts say.

The first is through declining trade. As the countries of Asia struggle through a severe recession that has now lasted nearly a year, their citizens have less money to buy US or European imports. European and American manufacturers subsequently suffer and must reduce investment, lay off workers, or both.

That process, however, is not considered likely to throw the US and European economies into recession. For one thing, the US and Europe trade primarily with each other. Exports to Asia are a relatively small part of their total exports, and exports in general are a relatively small part of their total economic activity.

In the US, for instance, exports account for roughly 12% of gross domestic product. About one-third go to Asia, including Japan, said Fred Bergsten of the Institute for International Economics.

If the Asian recession means Asia cuts its purchases of American products by one-third, say, that is a reduction of only 1% of US GDP.

In addition, Bergsten pointed out, there are offsetting advantages to the US and Europe in the market turmoil in Asia and Russia. Capital that is pouring out of investments in Asia and Russia is looking for a home; to the extent that it is parked in Western countries, the laws of economics mean interest rates – and thus loans such as mortgages – can become cheaper as money is more plentiful.

Similarly in Europe, Russia is a nearly negligible part of the continental economy. With a GDP 1 1/2 times the size of Switzerland – in a population 21 times as large – Russia absorbs only 1.3% of the exports that leave the European Union. Even Germany, the European country most heavily invested in Russia, sends less than 2% of its exports to Russia.

IN the industrialized world, Canada and Australia, whose economies have been relatively healthy, are the two countries most vulnerable to an economic downturn. Both are suffering, because falling commodity prices have undermined investor confidence in their resource-heavy economies. A similar phenomenon is arousing concern in resource-driven Latin American economies, such as those in Mexico, Venezuela and Brazil.

"Initially the immediate impact of Asian problems on these countries was thought to be small.

"But now it is spreading to Canada and Australia. That is a very serious development," said Teizo Taya, managing director of the Daiwa Institute of Research in Japan.

Like many Japanese analysts, Taya is more concerned that the world's current financial difficulties will lead to a global recession.

"The United States cannot be immune to what is going on in the rest of the world," Taya said.

The other way for what until now has been a financial market crisis in the US and Europe to turn into a full-blown global recession is through the minds of the millions of investors who have put their money in stocks and bonds, and through the minds of the people who manage that money.

"There is a high risk of all this doom-and-gloom-saying becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy," said Ulrich Cartellieri, a board member of Deutsche Bank AG. "Go to any cinema in the world and get 10 people crying 'Fire,' and you are likely to get a panic. "But while there is smoke now, there is no fire, and the fire brigade is in attendance."

The Clinton administration also believes dire forecasts are exaggerated.

"I wouldn't want to discount the risks in the current situation, and I think the scenario [of a consumer-led recession] can't be ruled out," said one senior administration official. "But I still think it's not likely. Remember, we have had a decline in long-term interest rates."

In addition, the official said, wages and incomes have been growing strongly: "Consumers have the wherewithal to spend."

Both Europe and the US have the policy tools at hand to reassure nervous consumers.

Inflation is low, so monetary authorities can reduce interest rates to stimulate growth. There are caveats there, too: fears in the US that an interest rate cut will rekindle inflation and concerns in Europe that lower interest rates will lower the value of the continent's new single currency, the euro, on the eve of its debut.

But with relatively successful deficit-cutting in Europe and a federal budget surplus in the US, governments can spend more if that is what it takes to stimulate flagging economies.

"The United States and Europe and Japan are watching the developments closely and are ready to take measures to deal with any imminent problems," said Seiichi Kondo, deputy director general of the Economic Bureau at the Japanese Foreign Affairs Ministry.

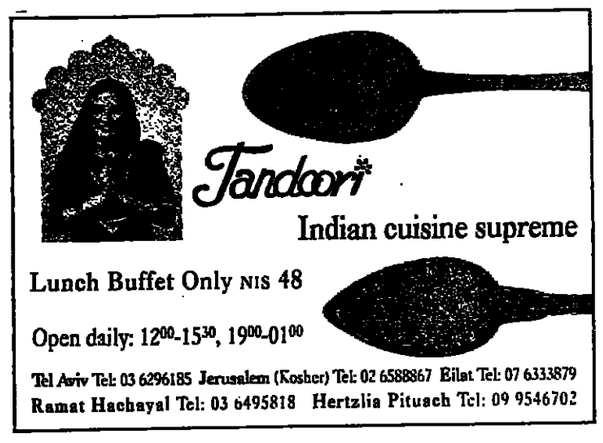
That view may be overly optimistic when it comes to Japan, which is in full recession and facing serious domestic political obstacles to making reforms necessary to restore economic confidence.

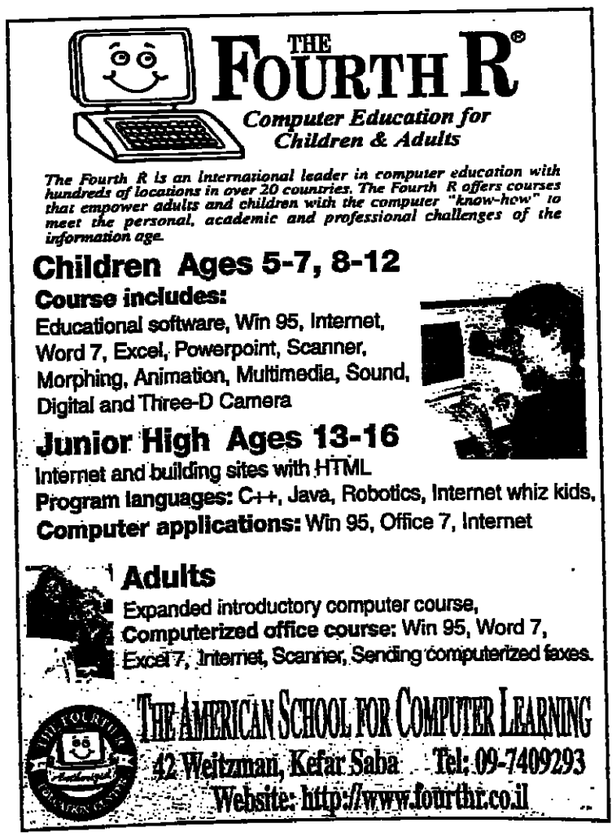
Moreover, the question remains whether government action can convince millions of investors the world over that things are fine if the perception is that they are not.

If the economies of Europe and the US are so healthy, why are their financial markets in such turmoil? Why is money pouring out of Latin America when there has been little real economic change in the majority of the countries there? One answer may lie in a unique late-20th-century phenomenon.

"The ability to transmit information has increased exponentially, but the ability to make sound judgment on the basis of that information has not," said Robert Hormats, vice chairman of Goldman Sachs International.

"People don't make discriminating judgments between Russia and Latin America. They are more risk-averse across the board. There is a nervousness about risk everywhere." (Washington Post)





License to kill

The PA's quickie trial and execution this week of two killers – the first execution since it took control in Gaza in 1994 – has evoked debate about the nature of crime and punishment in Palestinian society, Lamia Lahoud writes

Even a day after the traditional three-day mourning period was over, the Khalidi house in the Gaza refugee camp of Deir el-Balah was still abuzz with friends, relatives and other sympathetic Gazans coming to offer their condolences for the murder of Majdi and Mohammed.

A large sign draped over the mourning tent said: "Yasser Arafat means justice." More than 30,000 people had turned out for the funeral.

"I never imagined that this case would stir so much solidarity," said Bassem Khalidi, the victims' older brother. "In Arab tradition a man is not supposed to cry – but so many did at the funeral." He fought back his own tears.

Further north in Gaza, in Jabalya refugee camp, the Abu Sultan family, whose two sons were executed for slaying the Khalidis, conducted their own mourning rituals farther away from public view, behind a closed iron gate. Family members declined to give interviews.

Mohammed Abu Sultan, 25, and Raed Abu Sultan, 24, both members of the Palestinian Authority's police force, were the first Palestinians to be executed by the authority since the start of its rule in Gaza in 1994. Their heads hooded in black, they were shot by a firing squad on Sunday.

Many Gazans supported the executions; only a handful of intellectuals and human rights activists criticized the lightning trial and speedy implementation of the death penalty.

But the murders and subsequent executions have stirred debate over burgeoning crime and the question of capital punishment in Palestinian society.

WHILE there is an article in the Palestinian Basic Laws opposing executions, most Palestinians, including legislative council members, seem to favor the death penalty as punishment for murder.

The Basic Laws, passed by the Palestinian Legislative Council, have not yet been implemented.

Haidar Abdel-Shafi, a founding PLO member from Gaza, opposes the death penalty. Yet he said he understood the enthusiastic reaction of so many Palestinians to the executions. It stemmed, he said, from their insecurity over the status of law enforcement in Palestinian areas.

The Palestinians, Abdel-Shafi said, have the feeling that nobody is in control, and therefore anyone can use his weapon to settle a dispute.

Abdel-Shafi, a leading critic of the PA in Gaza, also blamed the authority for the fact that so many people in Gaza are armed.

A human-rights activist saw the executions as part of Arafat's attempt to stem the ever-growing murder rate among the Palestinians

He said he hoped the slaying of the Khalidis had finally brought home to the PA that it needs to institute some real measures to effect gun control. In this context, he regarded the PA ruling that security personnel may carry their weapons only while on duty as a step in the right direction.

Bassem Eid, a Palestinian human-rights activist who strongly condemned the executions, acknowledged that Arafat felt intense pressure both in the Palestinian street and from the Fatah movement to punish the murderers.

Eid reasoned that the executions were part of Arafat's attempt to rein in the ever-growing murder rate among Palestinians: He was determined to show that he would not tolerate murder as a way to settle disputes.

THE Khalidis had delayed opening a mourning tent until after the executions – a signal in Palestinian society that they were seeking revenge. Now the hope is that the execution of the Abu Sultans will prevent a spiral of revenge killings.

Bassem Khalidi explained that the family had been waiting to see whether the PA would punish the killers; now that the death sentences had been carried out, he seemed to indicate that the Khalidis had agreed to lay the matter to rest.

He accused activists who opposed the executions of "ignoring the will of the Palestinian people." He maintained that legislation in a democracy should represent the will of the majority and that the Palestinians have clearly opted in favor of punishing murderers via the death penalty.

The Palestinians, Khalidi pointed out, are an Islamic society, adding that putting murderers to death corresponds with Islamic values and laws. In the case of the Abu Sultan brothers, he noted, the PA was only implementing Egyptian laws, which are in force in Gaza, since the Palestinians do not yet have their own laws or constitution.

MAJDI Khalidi, who was 32, had been a leader of the pro-Arafat Fatah movement in Deir el-Balah and had worked for the PA's Intelligence Service. His slain brother Mohammed was 30.

PA security officers believe they were shot as the result of a dispute between Fares Abu Sultan and Majdi Khalidi dating back to a time when they both worked for PA Intelligence.

Abu Sultan was supposedly dismissed from the intelligence service and went to work for the PA's Department of Political Education.

Khalidis support a weakened relative as they leave a Palestinian Police facility after witnessing the execution of the men who killed two members of their family. (Ahmed Jadallah)

Bassem Khalidi, who witnessed the slaying of his brothers, said they were gunned down about a week ago in front of their cousin's house in Nusseirat, south of Gaza City.

He said the shootings followed an argument between their cousin Nabil Khalidi and Fares Abu Sultan, who live across the street from each other. Fares allegedly made provocative gestures at Nabil, who was on his balcony.

Fares called his brothers, who came and threatened Nabil with their weapons. Nabil called his cousins Bassem, Majdi and Mohammed, who arrived unarmed to try to calm tempers.

When they arrived, the Abu Sultan brothers were nowhere in sight, Khalidi recalls. Since Fares used to work for the intelligence service, Majdi called intelligence headquarters for help.

"When they got to the scene they told us that they couldn't arrest Fares because he no longer worked for them. They referred the case to the police," Khalidi recalled.

"Then, while they were arguing about who should arrest Fares, the Abu Sultan brothers returned and shot Mohammed and Majdi," he said.

Armed Palestinian Police close the prison gate prior to the execution. (Ahmed Jadallah)

Most of the Abu Sultan men were taken into police custody for their own protection but have gradually been released since the Khalidis' indication that they would not seek further retribution.

Although Khalidi expressed disappointment over the fact that not all the five Abu Sultan men accused of participating in the slaying of his brothers were executed, he said he would accept the PA's conclusions. The other four were given life sentences.

Arafat has so far resisted calls by Fatah members and other Gazans to execute Fares, whom they accuse of being behind the murders.

The word on the street is that Fares was a collaborator and had an Israeli ID. PA security officers dismissed this as rumor and said that only those who pulled the triggers should be executed.

"Besides, two Khalidis were murdered and two Abu Sultans were executed," one security officer said. "That's only fair and should settle the matter."

The Palestinians feel that nobody is in control, and therefore anyone can use his weapon to settle a dispute

— Haidar Abdel-Shafi

A PA security official in Gaza warned that the perpetrator of any revenge killing would also be put to death. He added, however, that this was no guarantee that other "honor" killings would not occur.

Abdel-Shafi explained that honor killings were so deeply rooted in Palestinian society that one could hardly expect them to disappear overnight; the only way the problem could be solved, he said, was by starting the democratic process in Palestinian society.

Referring to the quickie trial of the Abu Sultan brothers by the PA security court – set up on the Egyptian model by Arafat to mete out justice to terrorists, under pressure from the international community – Abdel-Shafi stressed that the PA had little respect for law and legal procedure.

That was the reason, he believed, why Palestinian society as a whole exhibited the same lack of respect.

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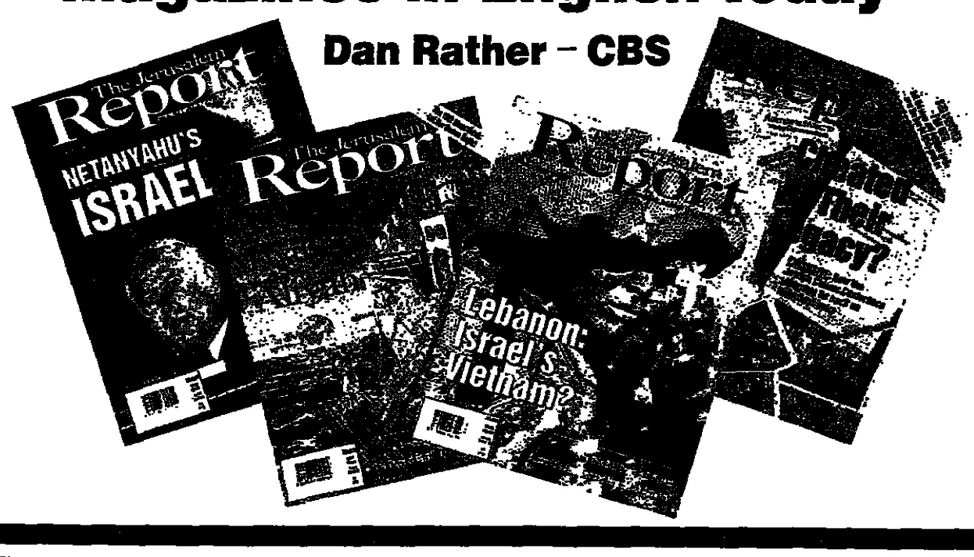

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هكذا من الاصل

Taking the law out of violators' hands

This week the police set up a temporary unit to investigate rising Jewish violence in Hebron. Herb Keinon looks at whether the unit is a force to be reckoned with, or just a public-relations ploy

An Israeli police officer shields a Palestinian as he walks past angry Jewish settlers in Hebron. (AP)

It is called the City of the Patriarchs, but Hebron could also justifiably be called the City of Unending Incidents.

Day-to-day life in this town beats to a harsh rhythm all its own; a cacophony made up of the incessant sound of rocks thrown, petrol bombs hurled, curses exchanged, gunshots fired and long knives angrily unsheathed.

So numerous are the incidents in Hebron that most have long ceased to interest the public. Petrol bombs lobbed at the Beit Hadassah or Avraham Avinu Jewish compounds are no longer automatically defined as "news." Vigilante raids by Jews smashing car windows are no longer received by the public with that much shock.

It is all just considered the "normal" state of affairs in Hebron, something we have come to expect.

"Things are crazy in southern Lebanon," the mind compartmentalizes, "things are crazy in Hebron."

Until something really big happens that demands our attention.

Like the stabbing of yeshiva student Erez Shmuel in 1993; like the massacre of 29 Palestinians at the Machpela Cave in 1994; like the murder of Yehuda Hoss and Nahum Partosh in 1995, and like the random firing on the casbah by Noam Friedman in 1997.

The murder of Rabbi Shlomo Ra'anan while asleep in his home in Tel Rumeida last month was another such incident. The murder triggered a furious reaction from the city's Jews, including a violent and destructive rampage in the city's market, and a shrill tongue-lashing of President Ezer Weizman by former Kach leader Baruch Marzel.

Soon afterwards, there was increased media discussion of threats by the extreme right on the lives of Weizman, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. A special inter-ministerial committee on Jerusalem convened to hear the police warn of extremists possibly plotting to attack the Dome of the Rock in order to precipitate a crisis that would doom the Oslo process.

Something had to be done, or so it seemed, to curb the extreme Right.

Especially in light of the Rabin assassination. Especially in light of the ugly scenes on television from Hebron. Especially in Hebron.

So the police established a temporary division in its Shai (Judea and Samaria) District to deal with an accumulated backlog of files against violators of the law in Hebron.

Shai spokesman Ofer Sivan said that the division, to be made up of eight people, will investigate cases of violence in Hebron involving both Jews and Palestinians. But Hebron settlement leaders have no doubt that the measure is aimed at them. Sivan said that the unit will investigate cases of violence so that the perpetrators can be indicted.

"It is difficult to express my feeling, because this is happening even as the police fail to deal with Arab lawlessness," said Hebron spokesman Noam Arnon. "You saw the Arabs on television throwing rocks and petrol bombs in Hebron, trying to kill people. The police did not deal with them at all. They did not take their pictures, are not running after them.

"The police are only going after the victims, using an iron fist against us."

Sivan said that since the terror attack last month in Yitzhar that killed two men, there has been an increase of some 20 percent in the number of incidents involving Jews in the city. The current number of investigators in Hebron cannot handle all the cases, he said.

Dispatching a special investigative unit is not rare, and the police often send supplemental staff to police stations that, for one reason or another, are having trouble keeping up with the usual workload, Sivan added.

Arnon doesn't accept the explanation. He views the establishment of the unit, as well as reports of threats on the lives of public officials, as part and parcel of a plot to delegitimize Hebron settlers.

"After the Oslo Accords, they knew there would be a danger to settlers, so they set out to delegitimize us," he said. "That way if there were attacks here, they would pass quietly because they are 'only' attacks on settlers.

"They sent Avishai Raviv down here to delegitimize and demonize us. The same thing is going on now. They know that there are going to be more casualties as a result of the next withdrawal, so they are delegitimizing us all over again," he said.

It was clear, before Netanyahu's election two years ago, that the "they" in Arnon's equation were the architects of Oslo, the Labor government.

But now who does he mean by "they"?

"This campaign rests on four pillars," Arnon said, "the General Security Services, the police, the state attorney's office, and the media. They are all preparing the victim for his role."

Arnon said he would not be surprised if the GSS had planted another Raviv-type agent provocateur in the Hebron/Kiryat Arba area, to besmirch the settlements.

David Wilder, a father of seven who moved into Hebron from Kiryat Arba this week as his answer to the Ra'anan murder, characterized the establishment of the new police unit, as well as the reports of assassination threats and plots to blow up the Dome of the Rock, as part of a witch-hunt.

"This campaign rests on four pillars: The GSS, the police, the state attorney's office, and the media. They are all preparing the victim for his role"

— Hebron settlers' spokesman Noam Arnon

"Threats on public figures are not coming from Hebron," Wilder said. "A year and a half ago they gave 80 percent of Hebron away, and did anything happen? Did we go out in the streets and start killing people?

"Did we start tearing the place apart? No, because there was nothing we could do. All this is a witch-hunt."

THIS type of reaction, a reaction that casts the settlers in the role of those being persecuted by the authorities, has legal commentator Moshe Negbi seeing red.

Negbi argues that not only is the legal system not persecuting the settlers, but that law-breakers among the settlers have for nearly 20 years benefited from a discriminatory policy that allows them to get away with activity that would not be tolerated anywhere else.

"To a certain degree," Negbi said, "the outlook the court has of itself is that of a Jewish court. I am saying this in general terms, but there have been a number of studies recently showing that our courts see themselves not as the courts of the state, but of the Jews in the state."

Negbi said this approach is obviously not held by all the judges, but that there are "certain elements in the system who see the settlements as part of the Zionist enterprise. It is a little like the way the courts in America had difficulty doing justice to the Indians, when the white man settled Indian lands in America."

According to Negbi, this conception of the court is held by certain people at various levels in the legal system. He said that if past experience is any indication, the police investigative unit in Hebron will likely have little success.

Going back to the Karp Report in 1982, which called for a more aggressive policy toward the lawlessness of some settlers, Negbi said that whenever there have been attempts to aggressively enforce the law among settlers, pressure from the settler movement and its supporters has effectively forced the authorities to retreat.

The decision this week by Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein to soften the language of regulations with regard to law and order in Judea and Samaria, regulations drawn up by previous attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair, is an example of this tendency to retreat, he said.

And a court decision earlier in the week to rule against the police and release from detention Batya Leibowitz and Noam Federman, suspected of involvement in disturbances in Hebron that followed the Ra'anan murder, is the most recent example of a legal system that is very forgiving to Jewish lawbreakers in the territories, Negbi said.

Another example he cited is the scheduled release on good behavior Sunday of Yisrael Lederman, sentenced in April 1997 to three years in prison for throwing boiling tea at Labor MK Yael Dayan during a visit to Hebron.

Tatiana Susskin, who was sentenced to two years in prison for putting up posters in Hebron last year depicting Mohammed as a pig, is also scheduled for release on Sunday.

Ehud Sprinzak, a Hebrew University political science professor who specializes in extremist groups, agrees with Negbi's criticism that the court has not aggressively dealt with lawbreakers over the last 20 years.

But, he said, the problem is not only the courts. Sprinzak said the state attorney's office has been notoriously weak in prosecuting law breakers in the settlements.

"The state attorney never established the tools necessary to deal with the lawlessness by settlers. And there was never a government determined enough to lead the way. The settlers have a serious lobby. And even under the Labor government, they knew how to work through the different channels," he said.

Sprinzak said Netanyahu is clearly not responsible for the state attorney's weakness on this issue, but that in the current legal configuration, the state attorney's office is "clearly weaker now."

"A number of recent studies show that our courts see themselves not as the courts of the state, but of the Jews in the state"

— Legal commentator Moshe Negbi

"Remember that the justice minister is Tzahi Hanegbi, Geula Cohen's son, who sat on top of the towers in Yamit to fight the withdrawal from Sinai," Sprinzak said.

It remains to be seen whether the strengthening of the police in Hebron will have either the teeth or the backing to crack down, he said.

But one thing that is clear, he said, is that the current increase in concern about what the extreme Right may do, a concern that likely led the police to send the investigators to Hebron, is due in part to the work of spin-meisters from among both Kach elements and the GSS.

"There is a lot of spin control going on here," Sprinzak said. "It starts with the Kahane-types and extremists who call journalists day and night on beepers with announcements, warnings and threats." The interests of these groups is to show that if a withdrawal takes place, all hell will break loose.

In addition, Sprinzak said, the GSS also has an interest in giving reality a certain "spin."

"The GSS, following the Rabin assassination, is very afraid and insecure," Sprinzak said. "I don't think there is a danger today to the prime minister, and I am doubtful about provocations on the Temple Mount. But the media is full of this."

The need of the GSS to "cover themselves" if something does happen, Sprinzak says, is partly responsible for helping create this atmosphere.

"Those hurt by all this are the vast majority of the settlers who are pragmatic, but find themselves in the eye of the storm," Sprinzak said.

STATE OF ISRAEL
Ministry of Health
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MINISTER OF HEALTH'S SHIELDS FOR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

As part of the Ministry's program celebrating the jubilee of the State, this year for the first time, the Minister will award shields to outstanding volunteers, working in Min. of Health frameworks. The shields will be awarded by Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, at a gala ceremony, to be held in Jerusalem.

The shields will be awarded to Israeli citizens - adults and youth, individuals, groups and voluntary organizations - whose activities have contributed to the health and welfare of the public.

Nomination forms are available at the offices of the Israel National Volunteers Council, 108 Derech Petah Tikva, Tel Aviv 67012, Tel. 03-561 4144, Fax. 03-561 3343. Nominations must be submitted by Thursday, October 1, 1998.

Ministry of Health
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IMMUNIZATIONS IN ELEMENTARY AND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS DURING THE 1998/9 SCHOOL YEAR

The Ministry of Health wishes to inform parents that during the 1998/9 school year, pupils in elementary and junior high schools will be immunized according to the following program:

1st graders - Immunization against measles, rubella (German measles), mumps, polio
3rd graders - Immunization against diphtheria, tetanus
6th graders - Immunization against rubella (girls and boys)
7th graders - Skin test for tuberculosis
All grades - Completion of missing immunization, such as measles, polio, diphtheria, tetanus

Parents requesting that their children not be immunized must inform the school principal in writing within 14 days of publication of this notice.

To parents of 1st grade children: If there is an individual in the family or in the household suffering from immune system disorders (due to disease or chemotherapy), the school nurse MUST be informed, so as to determine the type of immunizations to be given to the child.

In the event that additional immunizations will be given during the school year, a separate announcement will be published.

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At midnight on Saturday, September 5, clocks in Israel change from summer to winter time.
At all crossing points on Israel's borders with Jordan, on both the Israeli and Jordanian sides, clocks will be set according to Israeli time.

Spokesman's Bureau

One trip too far

Two young Israeli women go on trial in Japan this month for smuggling drugs into that country during a Far East adventure that ended in tragedy. Michael S. Arnold spoke to their shaken families

The nightmare began with a simple everday occurrence – a telephone ringing in Ronen's home on the northern coast. It was late July. A Foreign Ministry official was on the line.

"It was like the world fell on my head," Ronen says. "He told me: 'Your daughter is in prison in Japan for importation of drugs.'"

"I said – it's not true, someone stole her passport."

The news was true. Dorit, 24, had been stopped at Tokyo airport for bringing five kilograms of hashish from India hidden inside picture frames. Twelve hours later, Nava, 22, would be stopped for bringing the same quantity of drugs, in the same manner, from the same dealer. The names of the women and their parents, and some details, have been changed in this story.

Within 24 hours Ronen, a top executive with a prominent Israeli company, and Sara, Nava's mother, were on a plane to Tokyo, where they would spend the next month consoling their daughters and trying to prepare their legal defense. The women's first court hearings are at the end of September.

"I cannot work, I cannot concentrate," Sara says. "I still have moments when I find it hard to believe this is happening." Both parents keep repeating that these are good girls, from good homes.

Things like this are not supposed to happen to them. But like so many of the Israelis who flock to Asia each year, Dorit and Nava were swept up in the euphoria of freedom and license so attractive to young people who have just finished several years in army uniform.

EACH year, some 30,000 young Israelis travel to India and the Far East, a place where the norms and pressures of Israel, the responsibilities of daily life and a career track, the restraints of family and society do not seem to apply.

Israeli backpackers follow well-established routes through India, Nepal and Thailand, often turning to their countrymen to ask about the cheapest accomodations, bus or train schedules, the price to pay for a taxi to avoid being a "freier."

Tragedy is not unheard of on these trips; during the last month, for example, three Israelis were killed when their vehicles fell off winding mountain roads. Ronen had steeled himself for this type of catastrophe.

The possibility of drug use did not even occur to him, he says. Yet according to Shamai Golan, spokesman for the Authority for the War on Drugs, drug use among Israeli backpackers is rampant; many experiment with drugs ranging from marijuana and hashish to psychedelic mushrooms and LSD.

The atmosphere is free, easy and encouraging; the drugs are prevalent, high-quality and exceptionally cheap. Most users do not suffer long-term effects, but every year up to 900 Israelis returning from overseas need some form of psychiatric care because of drug use, Golan says.

A few get mixed up in transporting drugs. One well-known system is for dealers to seek out young, single, attractive women – who are impressionable and unlikely to attract police attention – to serve as couriers.

According to Nissim Ben-Sheetrit, deputy director-general of the Foreign Ministry's administration division – who this week announced the formation of a special unit to deal with Israeli travelers in distress – some 300 Israelis are in jail around the world, many on drug-related charges.

"Some transport drugs out of naivete, a lack of awareness, under the influence of drugs or because they fell in love with someone who convinced them to carry them," Golan says. "Usually it's a mixture of the drug atmosphere and innocence."

Many of these factors appear to have influenced Dorit and Nava. The girls, who did not know one another in Israel, met briefly at various points on the India circuit.

After several months on the road each arrived this summer in Manali, a town in the northwestern state of Himachal Pradesh in the foothills of the Himalayas. Manali is famous for several things. Among them are its breathtaking mountain views, fresh air and brilliant clean rivers.

Another is its cannabis crop, which makes it India's center of marijuana and hashish production. Cannabis plants grow freely in the mountain valleys; now, in September and October, locals pressed into service for the harvest walk through the fields scraping a resin from leaves of the meters-high plants and rolling it into patties between their palms.

The paste, known as "charas," is similar to hashish and looks more than a bit like dark Passover charoset. It is this preparation that Dorit and Nava carried to Japan, according to Yishai (not his real name), a 22-year-old Israeli man who partied with Nava in Manali and now is helping Sara reconstruct her daughter's last days in India.

Prized in Japan, where a gram sells for anywhere from $50 to $80, the drug can be had in India for as little as NIS 2 per gram, Yishai said.

This profit margin, apparently, motivates a young Israeli drug dealer who, according to Yishai, has operated in India for the past four years.

When Dorit and Nava arrived in Manali, the dealer homed in on them. They were his type of target – young, attractive, naive, alone. Neither woman had had much experience with drugs before her trip; in Asia they began smoking frequently because of the party atmosphere and peer pressure.

The dealer invited Dorit and Nava to join his "family," a group of hangers-on with whom he traveled through the region. Both Dorit and Nava spent a week to 10 days traveling with the dealer and his "family" through the breathtakingly beautiful towns that dot the Kullu Valley around Manali.

In a letter, Dorit writes of the "special loving happy atmosphere" of the dealer's group, adding, "they talked all the time about hash – how it's good for the body and the mind, they smoked really a lot and I, under their pressure, started to smoke more than ever, became more and more dizzy or – happy..... – now I understand that I became really confused in my mind."

At the end of this period, the Israeli dealer convinced each girl to carry the drugs to Japan, telling them that if caught, they would merely be deported. He gave each one a plane ticket and three pictures whose frames were filled with the drug, to be delivered to a contact in Japan.

THE motives of the women were obscure; they did not even expect to make big money. Ronen and Sara say their daughters were promised about $2,000 each for taking the risk of their lives.

Perhaps it was the adventure and the thrill of the operation; more likely, Ronen and Sara say, the girls' judgment was so impaired from drug use that they had lost the ability to distinguish clearly between right and wrong. Dorit also wrote of her reluctance to disappoint her new-found friends by backing out of the deal once she had agreed to carry the drugs.

The dealer's promises proved worthless. An X-ray at customs exposed Dorit's burden; she was placed in a cell at the airport police station.

Twelve hours later, Nava stepped off her flight from Delhi straight into the arms of the police.

Ronen and Sara do not deny that their daughters committed a crime, yet they say that the girls, in fact, are victims.

"These are good, honest girls who got manipulated by bad criminals," Ronen says. "The police realize this is an accident that happened to good people. But for me it's a big question whether the court will see the human side of it."

> **"Some transport drugs out of naivete, a lack of awareness, under the influence of drugs or because they fell in love with someone who convinced them to carry them"**
>
> **– Shamai Golan, Authority for the War on Drugs**

Each family has spent about $50,000 so far on lawyers fees and travel to Japan, Ronen and Sara say.

If convicted, the girls could be sentenced to as much as five years in jail. At issue, Ronen and Sara say, are the two purposes of punishment: re-education and deterrence. The first goal has been accomplished, their parents say: both Dorit and Nava have expressed terrible remorse and are cooperating fully with police. Their futures in Israel, a small country where news and gossip travel fast, probably are severely compromised.

Both girls may need psychological treatment because of the affair, their parents say. "These girls feel they've disappointed their families, their friends, their teachers." Sara says.

Nava "has lost her confidence, her beliefs in herself, part of her personality. She cannot live with herself. That's a punishment that's far more serious than sitting in jail." Sara adds.

As for deterring other potential criminals, Sara says, "We believe that if they come back to Israel and tell their stories, that will be the best way to deter others."

The parents have been in touch with the Authority for the War on Drugs, offering to have their daughters speak to other young Israelis about the danger of drug use. The parents also have prepared reports on their daughters' tragedy. They are distributed at travel outlets catering to Israeli backpackers.

But Israeli youth are much more likely to heed the advice of two young women scared straight by a run-in with the law than a lecture from moralizing parents, Sara and Ronen say.

Another option is to have the women, if convicted, transferred to Israeli jails. Ben-Sheetrit said an international covenant allows Israelis sentenced abroad to serve their time here – provided that Israel, the other country and the criminals themselves agree. A spokesman for the Japanese embassy in Tel Aviv would not comment on the case.

For now, Dorit and Nava continue to sit in a Japanese jail, waiting for their fate to be decided. Thousands of miles away, their parents struggle to deal with the tragedy – sharing it with some friends, relatives and associates, hiding it from others – praying for their daughters to be returned to Israel.

"A few times every day and night I ask myself what is Dorit doing now in her cell?" Ronen says. "You can't escape it. It's impossible. I'm with her all the time."

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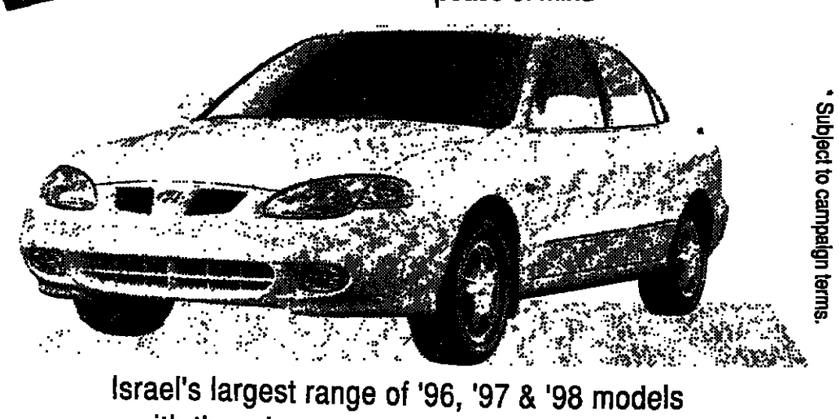

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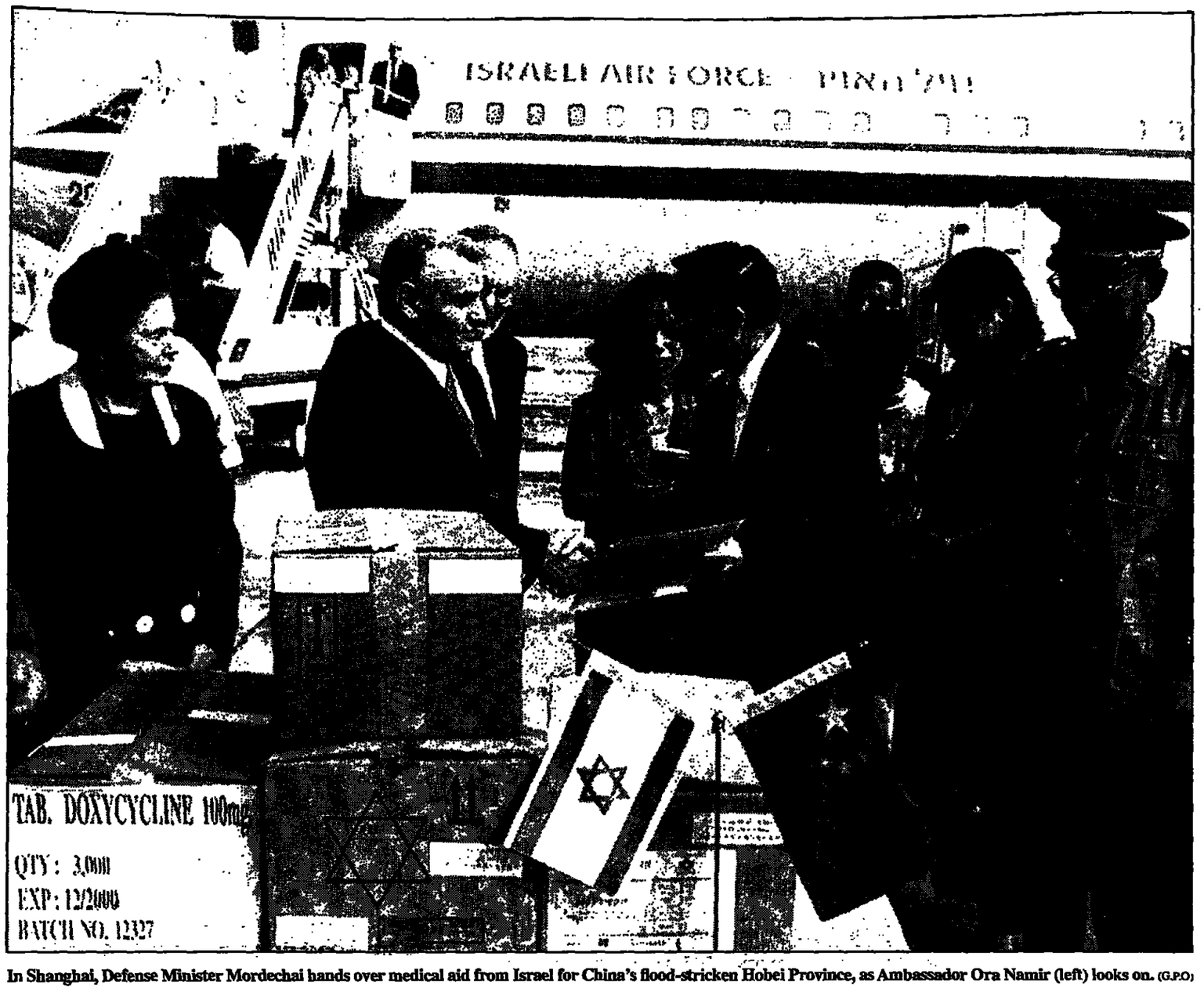
Arming the Chinese dragon

Israel's got the defense technology. China wants it. Arieh O'Sullivan reports on the deals defense industry executives are trying to keep secret, and on how the US is looking warily over Israel's shoulder, concerned about its links with Beijing



In Shanghai, Defense Minister Mordechai hands over medical aid from Israel for China's flood-stricken Hobei Province, as Ambassador Ora Namir (left) looks on. (G.P.O)

President Jiang Zemin of China was meeting with an important guest in a pond-side pagoda-style house Wednesday morning.

The head of the Communist Party and leader of over 1.3 billion people was supposed to be paying his first visit to the flood-stricken Hobei Province, but delayed his trip so he could meet this man, who is not even a head of state.

The man was former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger.

"He's a Jew. He's very smart," said a senior Chinese official.

A short while later, another Jew, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, had an audience with Jiang.

The scheduled 30-minute meeting began with the traditional washing of hands and warm cloths and then lasted over an hour-and-a-half.

"He spoke warmly of Jews. He mentioned [Karl] Marx and [Albert] Einstein, and he has a great appreciation for Jewish ingenuity," said Israeli Ambassador to China Ora Namir. "He even mentioned the drip-irrigation system we developed."

The Chinese seem to value the Jewish mind highly. But what they clearly want is "technology," and the high-tech weapons systems Jewish minds in Israel have developed during 50 years of conflict and several wars.

"We don't have any oil or diamonds or minerals in Israel. The only thing we have to sell is knowledge. We are a country overflowing with knowledge and this is our currency with which we deal with the world," said a very senior defense official.

"But we have to learn how to sell it cleverly, in such a way that we don't disrobe ourselves."

The Americans, meanwhile, are apprehensive about the cozy ties being forged on this side of the world, which, they fear, may involve the illegal transfer of US technologies in Israel's hands.

With some three million soldiers in its ranks, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) is the largest in the world. There seem to be soldiers everywhere: They line Tiananmen Square, making sure small gatherings stay that way; right now, some 300,000 are battling the floods in Hobei Province.

These may be the waning days of the old Chinese Army. China is realizing that it doesn't need more troops, but better ones. The People's Liberation Army has embarked on a major reform, aimed at modernization and streamlining.

Enter Israel.

MORDECHAI came to Shanghai, Xi'an and Beijing with the heads of the country's major defense industries to open doors, make contacts and win the green light from this country's leadership to make deals.

After meeting with Jiang and Defense Minister Gen. Chi Haotian, Mordechai proclaimed the mission a success. He said the blessing was given, and that the defense executives were free to go forth and cut deals.

Defense Ministry officials here pleaded with the journalists accompanying Mordechai not to report on any possible deals, claiming the Chinese were ultra-sensitive to publicity and any report that appeared would likely scuttle the deal.

The industrialists here include the heads of Israel Aircraft Industries, Rafael, TAAS-Israel Industries, El-Op, Tadiran, Rada, Elissra and Elbit. They sell anything from aircraft upgrades to targeting systems to communications.

One transaction currently under way is the sale to Beijing of a Phalcon airborne early-warning and control system (AWACS).

The $250 million deal involves retrofitting a Russian-made Ilyushin-76 cargo plane with advanced Elta electronic, computer, radar and communications systems.

Chinese industrialists will most likely be visiting Israel in the next six months as negotiations continue.

ISRAEL's defense ties with China go back to the late 1970s, way before diplomatic relations were established in 1992. They were forged by Shoul Eisenberg, that most discreet of Jewish billionaires.

The story goes that he came to then-premier Menachem Begin and told him the Chinese were ready to make a $10 billion deal for Israel to upgrade their Soviet-designed tanks and aircraft industries.

Hundreds of skilled Israeli technicians, engineers and weapons experts began surfacing in China – having reportedly entered using passports of various countries – and were soon busy at work.

Defense ties with China predate the 1992 establishment of diplomatic relations. During the late 1970s and mid-'80s, hundreds of Israeli technicians, engineers and weapons experts began surfacing in China, reportedly entering on passports from various countries

The Sino-Israel partnership only became public knowledge during a military parade in Beijing, when Western military attaches noticed that the tanks being displayed were equipped with an Israeli-invented "thermal fume-extraction sleeve" on the barrels of their cannons.

According to the respected Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Israel's Rafael industries granted China a license to produce the Python-3 air-combat missile, renamed PL-8 and PL-9.

So much of the defense dealing was shrouded in secrecy that estimates of its total worth have mushroomed over the years. To this day, defense officials have never confirmed the reported projects nor given a value for them.

But a study by the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency estimated Israel's total arms exports between 1984 and 1994 at $5.7 billion, or a yearly average of about $526 million.

"We supplied the goods even when the political situation deteriorated. Other countries turned and ran as a result of the events at Tiananmen Square, but we stuck to our commitments and that created a trust between the two countries," said a senior defense official involved in ties with China.

But the projects ran out around 1993 and military trade has declined to less than $50m. a year, defense sources said. Government trade figures put Israeli exports to China at $70.5m. and imports at $206m..

ONE of the most controversial deals in the works is the reported development of the F-10 multi-role fighter jet, which is amazingly similar to the canceled Lavi fighter developed by IAI.

According to *Jane's Defense Weekly*, Israel became involved in the program in the mid-1980s and provided the avionics, radar and other technologies originally developed for the Lavi with extensive US assistance.

The jet made its first test flight in March and could be ready for full production by 2001.

Chinese defense officials declined to make any comment on either the Lavi or any other projects.

US laws forbid Israel to pass on to another country any military technology obtained directly from the US. If an Israeli company is caught violating this law it can be suspended from doing military business in the US.

Since all defense deals in Israel need Defense Ministry approval, the government bears ultimate responsibility for enforcement.

Defense sources said that US officials have quietly expressed concern over Israel's defense links with China. But last year, during a visit to Washington, Mordechai gave his US counterpart William Cohen assurances that all defense deals with China would be "transparent." That is, Israel would hide nothing, from the American administration at least.

"We are committed to limitations on what they [the Americans] are not objecting to and we are staying within the confines of those limitations," said Avi Benayahu, Mordechai's spokesman.

Other defense sources explained that the Americans don't want advanced technology developed with them to fall into the wrong hands. But they also said the screws being applied are to prevent Israeli companies from competing against US firms.

Then there is the matter of Taiwan. As a condition for establishing diplomatic relations with the Communist mainland, Israel had to downgrade its ties with Taiwan.

In his meeting with Jiang, Mordechai reemphasized Israel's policy of being committed to one China.

"This is not connected to trade," Mordechai told reporters later. "We will trade with everyone. There are no conditions on our trade."

But according to foreign reports, the late prime minister and defense minister Yitzhak Rabin promised during his visit to China in 1993 that Israel would not sell weapons to Taiwan.

ON the outskirts of Beijing, units from the 11th regiment of the Chinese army's Third Division put on a spectacular combat display, charging targets, firing 105-mm recoilless rifles and performing hand-to-hand combat.

No tanks or aircraft participated in the show.

Last September, Jiang, who is also the chairman of the Central Military Commission (commander-in-chief), announced that the PLA was to cut a million people from its three-million-strong force. Most of these will be from field units like the 11th regiment. In their place will come a more professional army with rapid deployment capabilities, armor and jets.

"The army made an assessment and decided that the environment around China would be stable for the next 15 to 20 years, so it felt the time was right for the much-needed reform," said Maj. Meng Fanwah, a liaison officer in the PLA.

According to Meng, two-thirds of the PLA's reported $10 billion annual budget goes on food, clothing and general maintenance. The rest is divided up between R&D, procurement and training.

Because the government was dissatisfied with the performance of the local defense industries, it ordered them dismantled. A major reorganization which followed led to the creation of a military procurement apparatus.

China's defense budget is probably about three times what they declare, Israeli officials say.

"The problem here is that the Chinese haven't set aside any budget for their modernization plans," said Haim Oman, the recently appointed Israeli Defense Ministry representative in China.

"They'd prefer to buy the technology and do the refitting or production here. We are trying to convince them to go into joint ventures. It won't be easy because the British and French and the Americans, to a lesser extent, are also trying to make deals," Oman said.

When Oman takes up his post later this month, he will be reopening an office that had been closed for over a year.

Despite its problems, most analysts believe that China is limping its way to becoming a major superpower and possible rival to the US in another 20 years. So it is not hard to see why Israel, like many other countries, is keen on becoming a partner in this endeavor.

"We can compete, provided the Chinese see us as the best technically, most flexible and cooperative and cheaper," said a top defense ministry official involved in sales, [though] we won't pass on any technology that may harm our security."

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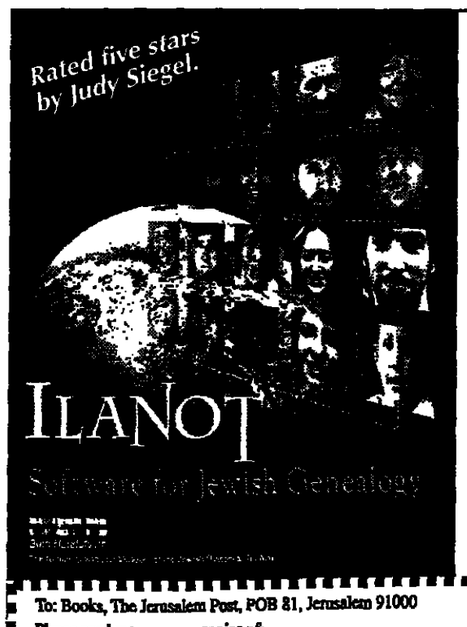

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A life broken in pieces

As if the Farida family hadn't suffered enough, Gosa Farida sat 19 months in jail for a crime he didn't commit. He got out last week, and now, he tells Larry Derfner, he must try and rebuild his life

'Maybe God created me to go through these troubles," said Gosa Farida, 28, sitting on a couch in his family's apartment in a Kiryat Malachi slum.

It was Tuesday evening, five days after the Supreme Court overturned his conviction for attempted rape, and freed him immediately – after he had sat for 19 months in prison.

His father was lying on the next couch, his mother sitting in an easy chair.

Having emigrated from Ethiopia six years ago, they didn't understand their son's Hebrew conversation, just as they didn't understand the Hebrew program they were staring at on TV.

"They're broken," Farida said of his parents.

What broke them was the deaths of two other sons – Kasao, a soldier in the Ethiopian army who was killed in the war with Eritrean rebels, and Taga, a father of six who was killed in the suicide bus bombing at Hadera's central bus station in April 1994.

Gosa Farida also fought in the Ethiopian civil war, and was taken prisoner by the rebels. Thousands of other Ethiopian POWs died or were killed, but Farida escaped and eventually immigrated to Israel.

His eyes flashed when he talked about the injustice done to him here, about the Beersheba police officer – also an Ethiopian immigrant – who told him, "I'm going to see that you stay in jail until your hair turns gray."

He talked about the neighbor and her daughter who lied in court against him, and about his first two lawyers, who seemed mainly interested in collecting their fees.

At other times Farida looked hopeful and determined, saying he planned to go out the next day and see about recovering some NIS 6,000 in back pay from an ex-employer, producing a National Labor Court ruling that the money was rightfully his.

"Once I straighten out a few things and just calm my mind down a little, I'm going to find a job," he said.

Sometimes, though, Farida became downcast, and he seemed helpless.

"I don't fall asleep until about four in the morning. I worry about how I'm going to make a living. I'm not sure if my fiancée will marry me – she tells me that once you've got a criminal record in Israel, no one will hire you," he said.

"I'm a grown man, and I've got nothing."

IN Farida's neighborhood, the yard is covered with litter; the walls are covered with graffiti. Most of the residents are Ethiopian immigrants. No doubt all of them have had hard lives.

But how many have suffered such a stunning variety of devastation – losing one brother to war in Ethiopia, then another to terror in Israel; being a POW in Ethiopia, then a prisoner in Israel – until three Supreme Court judges decided that this last ordeal had been a mistake?

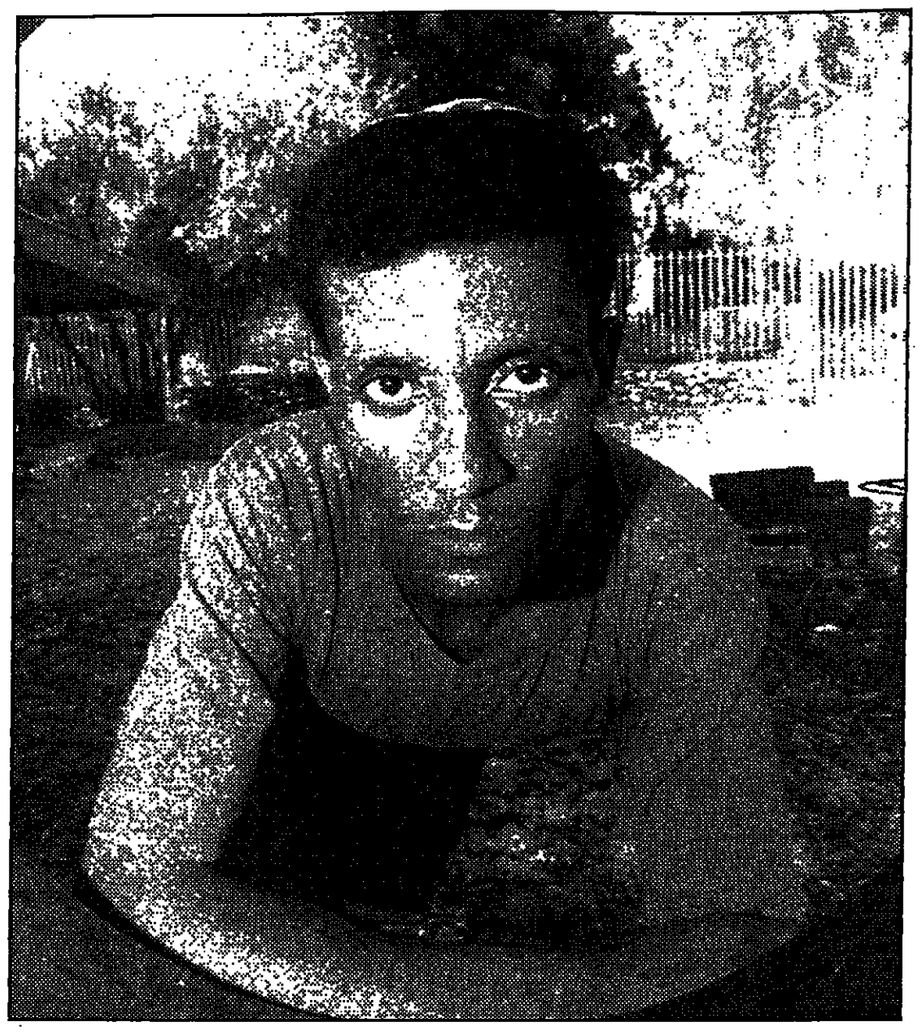
Gosa Farida seems a little young to play Job.

"I was getting someplace," he said, before he got arrested. He studied carpentry, car mechanics and Hebrew for three years at a trade school. He worked fairly steadily in construction and as a security guard.

Living at home with his family, he had some money. He met a young woman at school and got engaged.

On January 21, 1997, everything changed.

Farida had been involved with an upstairs neighbor quite a bit older than himself. He told the woman he was breaking it off because he had gotten engaged, and the woman started shouting at him on the stairwell.



Farida: "I'm not sure if my fiancée will marry me – she tells me that once you've got a criminal record in Israel, no one will hire you,' (Ariel Jerozolimski)

At one point the argument got so bad that he pushed her, Farida said.

Two days later, Beersheba police came looking for him.

"I thought it was because I'd pushed her," he said.

But no – they wanted him for something more serious.

The woman and her 17-year-old daughter had told police that Farida had come into the daughter's bedroom, thrown her to the floor, torn off her underwear and tried to choke and rape her before the mother came to the rescue.

"I've never touched that girl in my life," Farida said.

He said he offered to take a lie-detector test, but the police never gave him one. He was in jail for a year awaiting trial before his case came to the Beersheba District Court.

The prosecution presented torn underwear to the court, but aside from that, the case was based primarily on the testimony of the mother and the daughter; a friend of the daughter's also testified he had met the girl later on the day of the alleged assault and that she, crying, had told him about it. Apparently no medical evidence of assault was submitted.

The court convicted Farida and sentenced him to 2½ years in prison.

He spent some NIS 5,000 on the trial lawyer, and later about NIS 2,000 on the first appeal lawyer, who also lost.

Prison actually turned out to be of some benefit, he said.

Being away from Ethiopians – he was the only Ethiopian in Ohalei Kedar Prison – he learned to speak and read Hebrew, and to stand up for himself around Israelis. He helped out the prison guards and served meals.

"I proved I was capable. The guards used to ask me: 'You seem like a normal guy – how did you get into prison?' and I'd tell them, 'All kinds of bad things happened.' "

Having put Jewish observance more or less aside in Israel, Farida became observant again in prison.

"I needed it. I was almost broken, and I thought maybe it would help if I prayed."

He found the will to try for another appeal, and this time he hooked up with attorney Esther Bar-Zion – "the *great* Esther Bar-Zion," is how he puts it. She convinced the Supreme Court to see, finally, that Farida he was not guilty.

JUSTICES Shlomo Levin, Dalia Dorner and Hanoch Ariel found that the Beersheba District Court had not given sufficient weight to the "contradictions" in the 17-year-old girl's testimony, and to the possibility that the girl's loyalty to her mother had influenced her statements, Bar-Zion said.

The mother still lives upstairs.

"When I came home and everybody was here to see me, she came in and said, 'Welcome,'" Farida noted. As far as he knew, the daughter was in the army.

For now, Farida said he's filling his days cleaning and fixing things around the house, and trying to get his affairs back in order.

"The police took my ID card, so I went back to the police station to get it. They said they didn't have it anymore, so now I have to go to the Interior Ministry to get a new one. Then I have to go to the Labor Ministry, the Absorption Ministry, another ministry – I don't know where to start."

His fiancée can't help but be a little upset with him, Farida continued. "She asks me, 'How did you manage to get into such a mess?' "

Farida said he's already gotten a couple of job offers from contractors he knows, and expects to be back at work in a week or two.

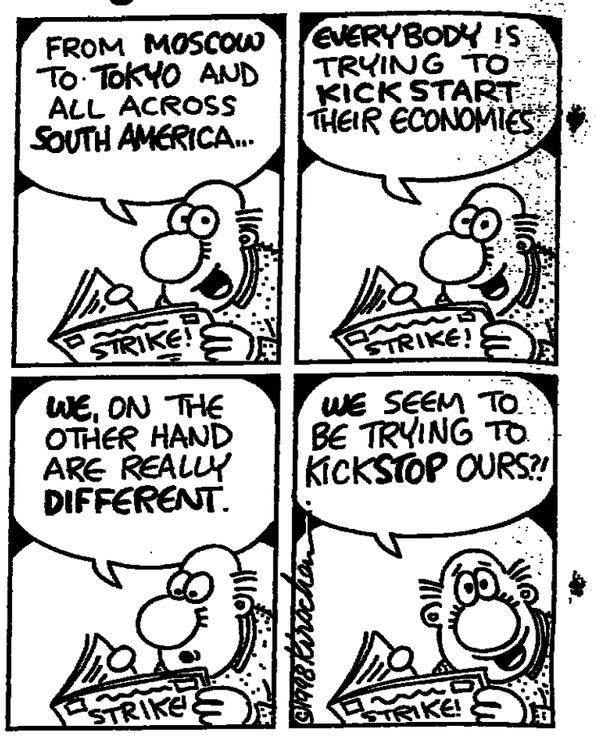
In all, he was "a little bitter" over what he'd been through – nothing more.

"I've been down, but I'll never let myself fall all the way, and in the end maybe God will raise me up high," he said.

Asked where he saw himself in another year or two, Farida replied, "I hope I'll be married, and maybe we'll move to the center of the country, where there's work. Maybe I'll go back to school.

"Right now I just want to clear my mind, and then I want to try to start a new life."

Dry Bones



GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

"What are you doing here? asked Hadassah Hospital's Professor **Eliezer Rachmilewitz** as he spied international business entrepreneur **Sammy Ofer** at the poolside plaza of the Holiday Inn in Jerusalem. "I heard they were giving away food for free," retorted Ofer, who happens to be one of the wealthiest men in Israel. The occasion was the official launch of the Oasis Fish Restaurant, the second eatery to be opened at the hotel by popular restaurateurs **Reena** and **Vinod Pushkarna**.

Restaurateur Pushkarna

"PEOPLE celebrate an opening; I'm celebrating a closing," said **Esther Rubin**, grande dame of Israel's art world, when she invited friends and art lovers to a luncheon at Tel Aviv's Rubin Museum for a last look at paintings by her late husband Reuven. The paintings were brought to the museum, once the Rubin family abode, in celebration of Israel's jubilee, and are to be returned to public and private collections in Israel and abroad.

Just as the paintings reflected a large slice of Israel's history, so did the guests. They included such well-known public figures as **Reuma Weizman**, **Leah Rabin**, **Shulamit Shamir** and **Ruth Tekoa**. **Ziva Lahat**, **Ruth Bondy**, **Colette Avital** and **Aviva Marks** also came along, as did **Shoshana Ben-Tzur** and legendary Jerusalem schoolteacher **Hava Ya'ari**. National celebrities such as **Dan Meridor** and **Nahman Shai** were also on hand.

COMMITMENTS abroad prevented **Dana International** from getting together earlier this year with some 30 or so people who, directly or indirectly, had contributed to her Eurovision success. This week she invited them all to a special "thank you" celebration in a glass-walled 18th-floor suite at the Radisson Moriah Plaza overlooking the panorama of greater Tel Aviv. Most of them accepted. Smoking endlessly, a pony-tailed Dana, clad in black T-shirt, blue jeans and black Adidas ankle boots, sat in a corner, leaping forward enthusiastically to greet each of her guests as they arrived. Part of the room was decorated with feathers in tribute to **Jean Paul Gaultier**, whose couture creation for her win was richly adorned with plumage.

Gaultier, who returned to Paris at the beginning of the week, promised to be back for next year's Eurovision, which will be hosted here at a cost of some $8 million. Israel Television chief **Yair Stern** confessed that when he saw the initial clip of "Viva Victoria," the **Zvika Pick** composition with which Dana eventually won, he didn't think it had a chance. Dana International, he said, had given the world a different picture of Israel. Having the Eurovision here next year will provide a great opportunity to promote Israel to the world, Stern said, serving as a perfect prelude to the anticipated tourism wave in 2000.

ILLNESS has led **Beverlee Black**, popular director of *The Jerusalem Post* Funds, to step down from her position, though she will continue to take an interest. As fourth director of the funds, which celebrate their 50th anniversary in November, Black broadened the base of distribution both categorically and geographically. Through moneys contributed by *Jerusalem Post* readers in Israel and abroad, she was able to help children, new immigrants and the elderly on an individual basis and through institutions and community centers which served their needs. She also initiated the annual Jerusalem Post Arts and Crafts Fair, held during the intermediate days of Pessah. The fair increased the funds' revenues, provided an additional avenue of income for the nation's artists and artisans, and gave hundreds of visitors hours of pleasure.

WHEN Jerusalem mayor **Ehud Olmert** attended the launching this week of the Time Elevator, the capital's newest and most fascinating tourist attraction, he recalled that he and the project's creative head, **Ori Yardeni**, had served together on Army Radio some 30 years ago. Each has since gone a long way, albeit in different directions. Also traveling a long way is **Haim Topol**, the Time Elevator guide who takes visitors through the ages, from the time of David and Solomon to the Six Day War.

Topol was unable to come to the opening because he is in Melbourne, giving his 2,000th performance as Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*. But, if truth be told, he comes across much more convincingly in the role of Shalem in the Time Elevator, where he is nothing short of brilliant.

The pre-show reception, hosted by Yardeni and his partners **Danny Rubinstein** and **Ezra Harel**, was in keeping with the early periods depicted by the Time Elevator. Actors dressed in biblical garb mingled with guests such as **Yaffa Yarkoni**, Tourism Minister **Moshe Katsav** and MK **Emanuel Zissmann**, who all dined on biblical fare and quaffed wines and juices served from clay carafes.

ISRAELI model and actor **Raz Dagan**, a handsome kibbutznik from Sde Nehemia who is currently studying drama in New York, is about to embark on his fifth movie. In the film, which will be shot in Rome, he plays the son of **Jessica Lang**. It's a major break for Dagan, who screen-tested with hundreds of other hopefuls and passed with flying colors.

Dana International gives thanks. (Brian Hendler)

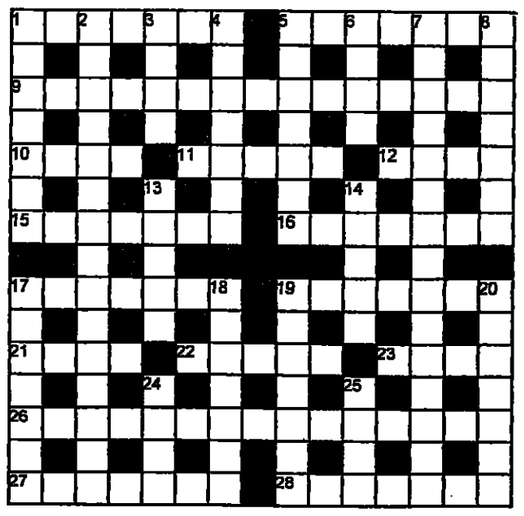
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Kissing in a sort of order (7)
5 Said to run from seating area in cinema (7)
9 Term girl had for flower (10,5)
10 Understand king's present (4)
11 Quickly grab wife that's going to faint (5)
12 Unassisted thus, look! (4)
15 Not one or two, but in three pieces (7)
16 Danced, having taken hallucinogenic drugs (7)
17 Allrite, shocking misprint (7)
19 Artificial feeding order (7)
21 Manner is humble, we hear (4)
22 Submarine about to manoeuvre (1-4)
23 Would be happy in bed? Not that much (4)
26 Free from threatening hangover (3,7,5)
27 Alight, Ted turned to get water (7)
28 Sea creature beat its victim (7)

DOWN

1 Keep asking family for gourd (7)
2 Unwanted youngster mad at home (6,2,3,4)
3 One's always showing surprised expression (1,3)
4 Wide gap between combatants here? (4,3)
5 Exhausted, having used maximum effort (4,3)
6 Mythical stories seemed daft, to some extent (4)
7 Opponent's ire let rip in nasty missive? (6-3,6)
8 Your staff I grabbed? I'll get it in the neck (7)
13 Plan church with skill (5)
14 Gear I would find stiff (5)
17 Inadequate sort of company? (7)
18 Country the French put embargo on (7)
19 With which to apply soft soap? (7)
20 Sadly, does try to cause ruin (7)
24 Sitcom *After Hours* is awful, sleep through it (4)
25 Smallholding is distant, over a mile (4)



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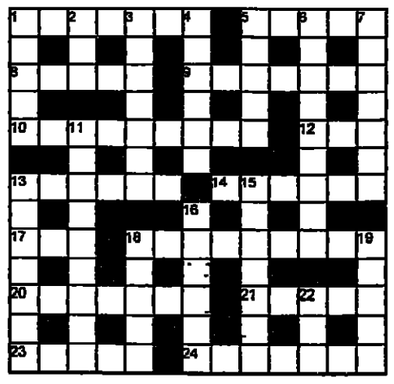
Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 7 Rhodes, 8 Weeper, 10 Graphic, 11 Large, 12 Deep, 13 Found, 17 Loyal, 18 Purr, 22 Delta, 23 Locates, 24 Apples, 25 Spiced. DOWN: 1 Tragedy, 2 Voyager, 3 Delhi, 4 Selling, 5 Spare, 6 Creep, 9 Scholarly, 14 Rotates, 15 Justice, 16 Preside, 19 Ideal, 20 Flaps, 21 Scope.



QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Nil (7)
5 Acting (5)
8 Vision (5)
9 Merciful (7)
10 Sweet-brier (9)
12 Golf peg (3)
13 Costlier (6)
14 Vestiges (6)
17 Ignited (3)
18 Destructively (9)
20 Back tooth (7)
21 Timepiece (5)
23 Yonder (5)
24 Soporific (7)

DOWN

1 Elbow (5)
2 Part of foot (3)
3 Huge (7)
4 French (6)
5 eg Waltz (5)
6 The same (9)
7 Infers (7)
11 However (US) (9)
13 Pleasure (7)
15 Bring into sight again (7)
16 A noisy sleeper (6)
18 Insignia (5)
19 Country bumpkin (5)
22 Not on (3)

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DWELLINGS
Jerusalem Area

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DWELLINGS
Jerusalem Area

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Jerusalem Area

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Tel Aviv: Shlomo Hamelech, 78 Shlomo Hamelech, 524-6461; Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gvirol, 546-2040.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Hyper Netto, 8 Haroshet, Industrial Zone, Ra'anana, 748-3537.
Netanya: Hanassi, 36 Weizmann, 882-3639.
Haifa: Habankim, 5 Habankim, 851-3005.
Krayot area: Kupat Holim Clalit Zevulun, 192 Derech Akko, Kiryat Bialik, 878-7818.
Herzliya: New Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 *Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim),* Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, September 5
Jerusalem: *(day) Jaffa Gate, 628-3898;* (evening) Center Pharm, Har Hahotzvim, 586-9744; (day and evening) Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.Tel Aviv: Briut, 28 King George, 528-3731; Bloch, 32 Bloch, 522-6425.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: (day) Bar-Ilan, 29 Bar-Ilan, Ra'anana, 744-3579; (evening) Margalit mall, Jabotinsky, Hod Hasharon, 740-8681.
Netanya: *Hasharon mall, Herzl,* 861-7766.
Haifa: Kiryat Eliezer, 6 Mayerhoff Sq., 851-1707.
Krayot area: Kupat Holim Clalit Zevulun, 192 Derech Akko, Kiryat Bialik, 878-7818.
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DUTY HOSPITALS
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Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

Saturday, September 5
Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (internal, surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, ENT); Bikur Holim (obstetrics); Shaare *Zedek (pediatrics).*
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POLICE 100

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Ashkelon	6551332	Nahariya*	9912333
Beersheba*	6274767	Netanya*	9604444
Beit Shemesh	6523133	P. Tikva*	9311111
Dan Region*	5793333	Rehovot*	9451333
Eilat*	6332444	Rishon*	9642333
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The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital, phone 04-852-9205 for *emergency calls* 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Eran – Emotional First Aid – 1201, also Jerusalem 02-561-0303 (Arabic: 563-0301); Tel Aviv 03-546-1111 (children/youth 546-0739); Rishon Lezion 03-956-6661/2; Haifa 04-867-2222 (Arabic: 867-2226); Beersheba 07-649-4333; Netanya 09-862-5110; Karmiel 04-988-8770 (Arabic: 958-3444); Kfar Sava 09-767-4555; Hadera 06-634-6789; Nazareth (Arabic: 06-645-4222).

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Kupat Holim Information Center 177-022-1906, Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hadassah/Jerusalem Municipal Health *Center for Adolescents, 6 Chile St.,* Kiryat Hayovel, Jim. Advice by phone 02-643-3882.

Hadassah Medical Organization – Israel Cancer Association telephone support service 02-624-7676.

Flight arrivals – for information in English 03-972-3344.

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RELIGIOUS SERVICES

REDEEMER CHURCH , Lutheran, Muristan Rd. Old City, Jerusalem. Sunday services: *English 9:00 a.m. German 10:30* a.m. Tel . 6276111,6281049.

JERUSALEM BAPTIST CHURCH - The Baptist House Center, #4 Narkis Street,Sunday,10:45 a.m.Tel.02-6255942.

PENTECOSTAL WORSHIP SERVICE, Mt. Zion Fellowship, Fri., Sat., Sun., 10:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m. Tel. 02-582-8964.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES
JERUSALEM

***HEBREW UNION COLLEGE,** 13 King* David St. Shabbat morning service, 9:30 a.m.

MORESHET YISRAEL – Conservative 4 Agron. Dr. Avraham Feder, Rabbi. Mincha, 6:30 p.m., Shacharit, 8:30 a.m. Mincha, 5:56 p.m. Daily Minyan 7 a.m.

TEL AVIV-CHRISTIAN

Immanuel Church,15 Beer Hofman.Tel. 03-6820654. Services: Saturday 11 a.m., Sunday at 10 a.m.

ARTGUIDE

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WHERE TO GO

HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus in English, daily Sun.-Thur. 11 a.m. from Bronfman Recep*tion Centre, Sherman Administration Bldg.* Buses 4a,9,23,26,28. For info, call 882819.

HAIFA

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-8374253.

WHERE TO GO
JERUSALEM

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ART GUIDE
HAIFA

THE REUBEN AND EDITH HECHT MUSEUM. (Haifa University). Permanent exhibition:The People of Israel in Eretz *Yisrael* • Phoenicians on the Northern Coast of Israel in the Biblical Period • Illness and Healing in Ancient Times • Impressionism and the Jewish School of Paris. Open Sun., Mon., Wed., Thur. 10-4; Tue. 10-7. Fri. 10-1. Sat.10-2 ADMISSION FREE.

JERUSALEM

Museums
OLD YISHUV COURT MUSEUM. Life in the Jewish community in the Old city, mid-19th century – World War II. 6 Or Hahaim, Jewish Quarter, Old City. Sun.-Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

ART GUIDE
TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART. Nathan Gottesdiener Foundation Israeli Prize winner, Yoav Shmueli. From the Cabinet of Curiosities to Virtual Reality: The Museum *- Past, Present and Future.* "A *Point of* View" - children's exhibition. "The Eyes of the Nation" Visual Art in a Country Without Boundaries, Political aspects of Israeli art of the Seventies. "The Boundaries of Lan*guage" - Anatomy of language in the visual* arts. Collections. **HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART.** Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue.,10a.m.,-10 p.m. Fri., 10 a.m.-2, p.m., Sat., 10 a.m.-3p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, . Tel. 6919155-8.

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THE WEATHER

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ISRAEL

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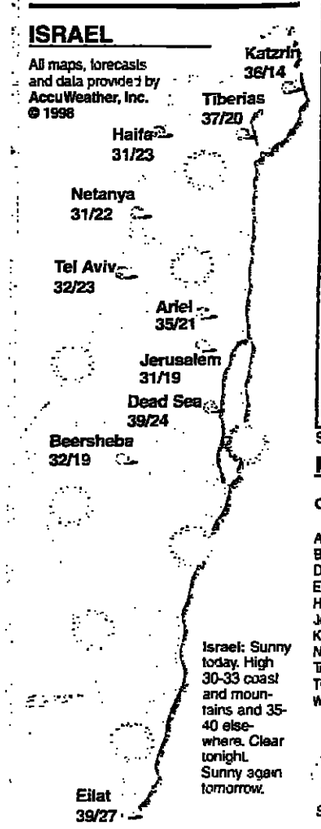
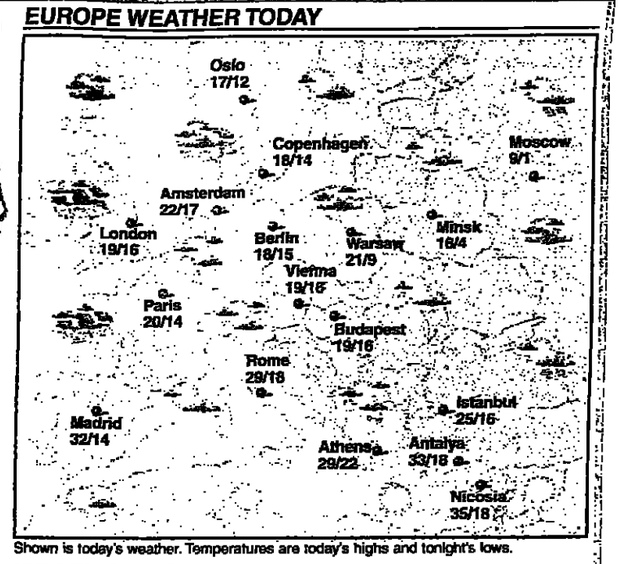


Israel: Sunny today. High 30-33 coast and mountains and 35-40 elsewhere. Clear tonight. Sunny again tomorrow.

EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ISRAEL CITIES

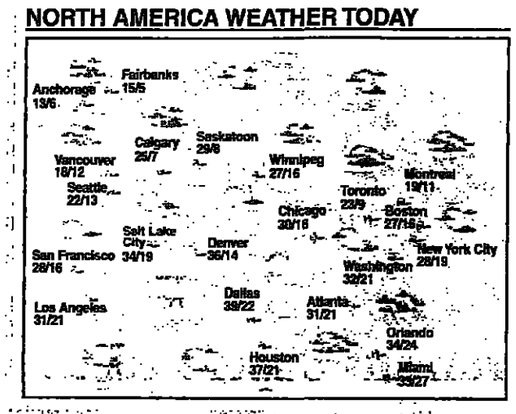
City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Saturday High C/F	Saturday Low/W C/F	Sunday High C/F	Sunday Low/W C/F	Monday High C/F	Monday Low/W C/F
Ariel	35/95	21/70/s	34/93	20/68/s	34/93	20/68/pc	35/95	22/71/pc
Beersheba	32/89	19/66/s	30/86	19/66/s	30/86	19/66/pc	32/89	19/66/pc
Dead Sea	39/102	24/75/s	38/100	22/71/s	39/100	24/75/pc	38/100	26/79/pc
Eilat	39/102	27/80/s	37/98	26/79/s	38/100	28/82/pc	39/102	28/82/pc
Haifa	31/88	23/73/s	30/86	22/71/s	30/86	23/73/pc	31/88	23/73/pc
Jerusalem	31/88	19/66/s	29/84	17/62/s	29/84	19/66/pc	31/88	19/66/pc
Katzrin	36/97	14/57/s	36/97	12/53/s	33/91	14/57/pc	35/95	15/59/pc
Netanya	31/88	22/71/s	31/88	22/71/s	30/86	23/73/pc	31/88	23/73/pc
Tel Aviv	32/89	23/73/s	31/88	22/71/s	31/88	23/73/pc	32/89	23/73/pc
Tiberias	37/98	20/68/s	36/97	21/70/s	35/95	22/71/pc	36/97	22/71/pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, f-ice.

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Saturday High C/F	Saturday Low/W C/F	Sunday High C/F	Sunday Low/W C/F
Amsterdam	22/71	17/62/pc	21/70	13/55/sh	24/75	13/55/pc
Beijing	35/95	22/71/s	33/91	22/71/s	32/89	22/71/s
Berlin	18/64	15/59/r	23/73	17/62/r	23/73	18/64/pc
Brussels	21/70	17/62/pc	19/66	13/55/r	24/75	12/53/pc
Cairo	35/95	22/71/s	34/93	20/68/s	33/91	21/70/pc
Chicago	30/86	16/61/s	28/82	18/64/s	29/84	17/62/pc
Frankfurt	17/62	14/57/r	24/75	15/61/c	24/75	16/61/pc
Hong Kong	30/86	26/79/sh	31/88	27/80/pc	31/88	28/79/pc
Johannesburg	28/82	11/52/s	29/84	11/52/s	26/79	12/53/pc
London	19/66	16/61/r	22/71	16/61/sh	25/77	11/52/sh
Los Angeles	31/88	21/70/c	32/89	18/64/r	31/88	18/64/pc
Madrid	32/89	14/57/pc	29/84	17/62/pc	35/95	18/64/s
Mexico City	26/79	13/55/pc	24/75	14/57/pc	24/75	14/57/s
Montreal	19/66	11/52/pc	19/66	14/57/pc	26/79	16/61/s
Moscow	9/48	1/34/pc	12/53	6/43/pc	18/64	12/53/s
New York	28/82	19/66/pc	27/80	18/64/s	29/84	20/68/s
Paris	20/68	14/57/c	19/66	13/55/c	25/77	10/50/pc
Prague	18/64	13/55/r	21/70	13/55/r	23/73	16/61/pc
Rio de Janeiro	30/86	22/71/pc	27/80	21/70/pc	24/75	19/66/pc
Rome	29/84	18/64/pc	29/84	19/66/pc	31/88	22/71/pc
Sydney	23/73	19/66/r	22/71	7/44/pc	18/64	10/50/s
Tokyo	27/80	22/71/r	26/79	22/71/c	27/80	24/75/pc
Toronto	23/73	9/48/s	24/75	15/59/s	28/82	16/61/s
Vienna	19/66	16/61/sh	22/71	17/62/r	25/77	18/64/pc
Warsaw	21/70	9/48/pc	22/71	14/57/pc	24/75	16/61/c
Washington	32/89	21/70/s	29/84	19/66/s	30/86	20/68/s
Zurich	23/73	16/61/pc	22/71	11/52/pc	24/75	16/61/pc

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



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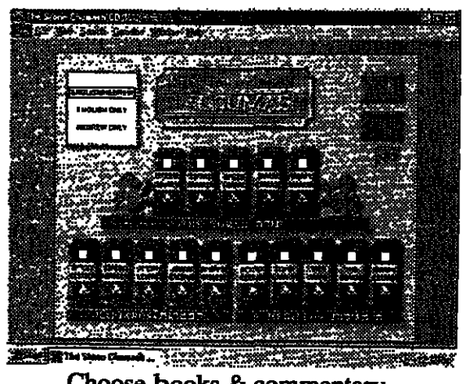
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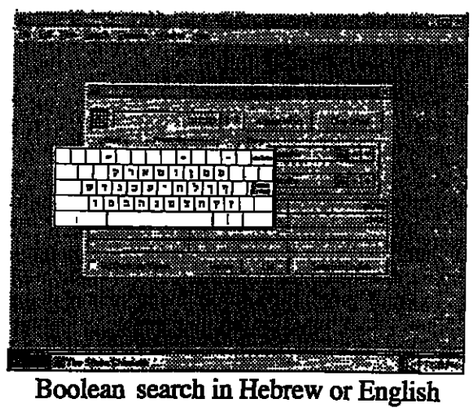
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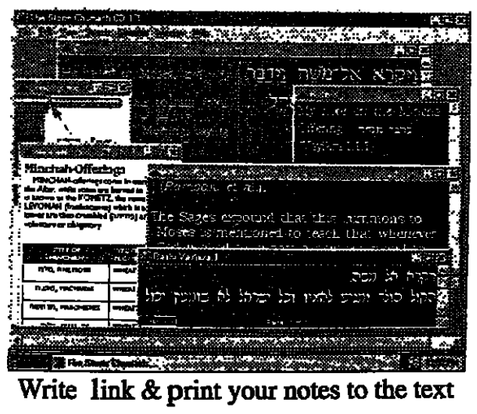
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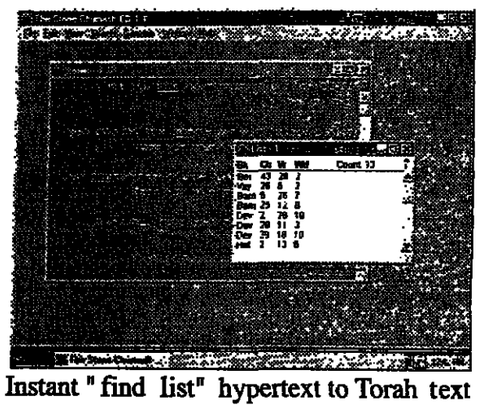
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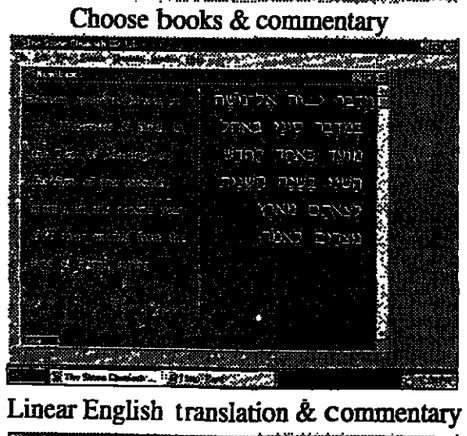
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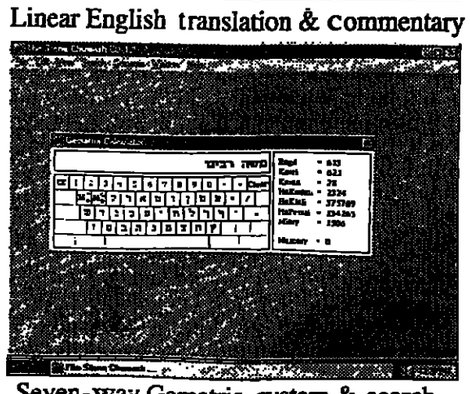
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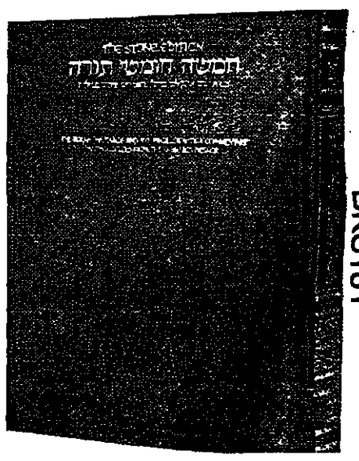

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MY CALL

By JOE HOFFMAN

WATCHING wheelchair tennis reminds me of that old telephone joke. "How'm I gonna talk?" goes the punchline, if my hands are occupied holding the receiver and depositing the token.

It's the same on the tennis court. If both of your hands are occupied moving the wheelchair, how're you gonna hold the racquet?

"It's two separate movements," concurs player Eyal Pesachovitch "One stops, the other starts. You have no idea how difficult it is."

Pesachovitch was speaking just after having been ousted from the Globus-Jerusalem Wheelchair Tournament. The sun was boiling on that day of the two-day event, sponsored by the Jerusalem branch of ILAN. And these chair-bound warriors moved around the Katamon courts with such determination and agility, it made me think of what it must've been like in the days of the charioteers.

Like the man said, "You have no idea how difficult it is."

But don't think that muscles alone are the answer, said even-

In fact, it is the motivation, all agree, which is the defining characteristic of the sport.

Just watching players schlepping their chairs and equipment around the court gives you a glimmer of what odds have been overcome.

"Sometimes, the frustration gets the better of you," says Eyal Globus, event co-organizer, together with Pini Levi and Adrienne Dodi. "There are those who played tennis before their injuries, and those who are learning for the first time. There are all sorts of tensions to deal with."

How do people "wind up" here? Everything from freak accidents to war injuries to those disabled from birth. "I know one player who fell four storeys, and another who slipped one step in his backyard," says former national tennis coach Jacob Wiener. "They both ended up here. After a while it becomes irrelevant how someone comes to be wheelchair-bound."

SAR-TOV, 36, wound up here after stepping on a land mine in the Golan 20 years ago. He lost

ON THE MOVE – Liran Handel returns a serve in the recently completed Globus-Jerusalem Wheelchair Tennis tournament. (Isaac Harari)

tual tournament winner and internationally-ranked No. 7 Eyal Sar-Tov. "Muscles are what propel the wheelchair, but it's the accuracy of the shot that counts."

Pesachovitch agrees, "I've seen lots of body-builder types come here and think that a powerful shot will see them through. When they see the ball flying out of the court, they change their mind. Ultimately you don't have to be strong, you don't have to be fast. You just need to know where to put the ball."

ONE of the ironies of the sport is that the less physically challenged you are, the more difficult it can be. Pesachovitch explains: "If you can walk (i.e., not paralyzed below the waist) you will have a tendency to lift yourself off the chair when you hit the ball."

"And that's a foul," says umpire Maurice Kahn. "The rule states that a player must have both buttocks on the chair seat and feet on the platforms at the time of contact."

Kahn went on to say that a lot of novice athletes have to strap themselves to the chair. But when you get good, says national No. 1 Sar-Tov, "The chair is part of my body. I am one with it."

What else is different about wheelchair tennis, aside from the two-bounce rule, continues Kahn, is the level of sportsmanship. It's so much higher than in the "regular" game.

"I hardly ever encounter a thrown racket or verbal abuse and rarely give code violations.

"Most people come to the sport as part of their rehabilitation. After a while, just learning the mechanics of the game and working up a good sweat becomes less imporant and the desire to compete starts. And that, of course, is the most successful rehabilitation of all," Kahn concludes. "The behavior is great because the motivation is terrific."

his left leg below the knee and walks with a prosthesis.

When you see him walking – strutting, really – with his huge pecs and biceps, pushing his chair and equipment across the court, you realize what is meant by "a psychological edge."

Winning is a habit with Sar-Tov. He's been playing the sport since 1993, after quitting basketball.

"I simply ran out of challenges (on the basketball team). We were neither well-supported nor good enough to go anyplace, so I looked for something else," says the former point guard, who was an eight-time veteran of the national basketball team which competed in the Seoul (1988) and Barcelona (1992) Olympics.

Changing sports didn't even slow him down. He was on the national tennis team at the '96 Atlanta Games.

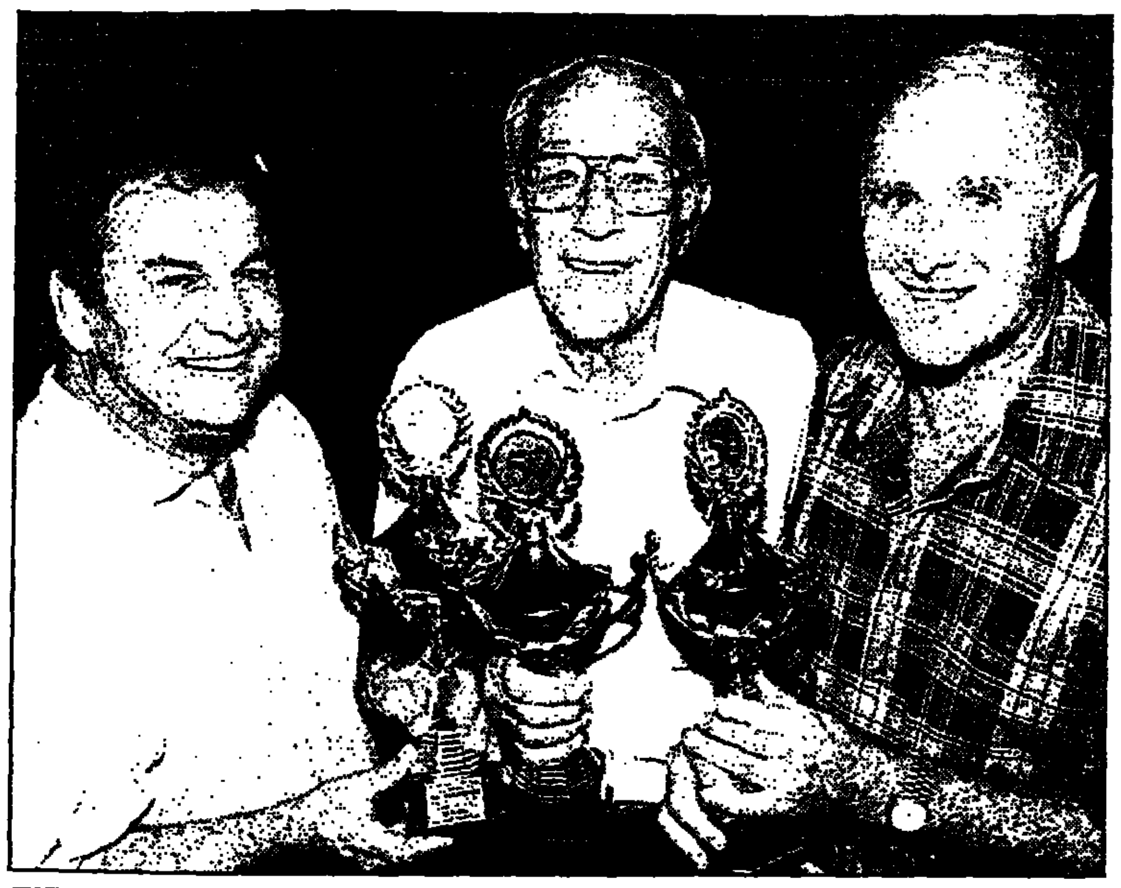
Sar-Tov, who is presently on a tour which will take him to the French Open in Paris and to Livorno, has his sights set for the Masters in November. As world No. 7, he is guaranteed a spot in the end-of-the-year playoff which invites the Top Eight.

Sar-Tov supports himself with his tournament earnings. "The biggest are the Masters and the Lake Shore Foundation World Cup in Alabama, which have prize money of $36,000. But most of the time, it's in the $1,000-$5,000 range."

Sar-Tov is a decidedly upbeat character. "You have to accept who and what you are," he said. "It's like going bald. You can fight it with wigs or implants. Or you can simply accept it."

Plus, he has little sympathy for the "could-have" school of thought. "There isn't much that we can't do. Skiing, mountain climbing. It's all a state of mind.

"Everybody's disabled in some way. The only limitations come from society, which might not have enough ramps or other facilities, but the rest is up to you."



JUST REWARDS – Lawn bowlers (from left) Jeff Rabkin, Norman Spiro and Cecil Bransky with their awards last night. (Israel Sun)

SA community honors its sporting heroes

By HEATHER CHAIT

From the proud tradition of Newlands, Ellis Park and the Wanderers, it's hardly surprising that the contribution of ex-South Africans to Israeli sport has been intensive and unflinching.

Over one hundred nominations from various sports bodies landed on the organizers' desks and whittling them down to just 12 (six athletes and six organizational figures) was no simple task.

If "braai" and "boerewors" are not part of your vocab, you weren't among the hundreds of people at Ra'anana's Lawn Bowls Club last night to celebrate the contribution of ex-South Africans to local sport.

Between swapping memories of how it was in the old land, and an address from South African ambassador Frank Land, a recurrent theme of the evening was the demise of Channel 16, the cable sports channel.

David Kaplan, vice-chairman of Telfed, deplored the loss of the channel, especially for South Africans, a "community passionate about sport." To loud applause, Herzl Katz, chairman of the South African Zionist Federation, read aloud a resolution which he intends to present to the Minister of Communications, calling for a "satisfactory replacement" to the channel.

The recipients at last night's awards ceremony were:

• Gadi and Alon Brumer (soccer) – The twins who in South Africa would have been candidates for the Springbok rugby side made Maccabi Tel Aviv their home from the age of eight.

Despite injury setbacks, the twins are a major force in their Tel Aviv team and there are high hopes for their return to the national squad.

• Hillel Blumberg (squash) – Making aliyah to a country with no squash courts was no deterrent to Blumberg; he simply picked up a squash court and planted it, lock stock and barrel in Ra'anana's industrial area, forcibly creating Israel's first squash court. Now Blumberg can choose to play at any of 100 courts when he is not busy coaching the national squad.

• Cecil Bransky (bowls) – Besides his glittering record which includes a gold medal at the 1992 world bowls triples event and winner of the Hong Kong pairs, Bransky's love of the game has spilled over to the next generation in whom he invests much time and devotion.

• Ian Froman (tennis) – He may live in Ramat Hasharon with his immediate family but Israel Prize laureate Froman can count 300,000 children as his own and 11 tennis centers as his homes.

Froman is not only active behind the courts, both as an administrator and phenomenally successful fundraiser, but he has also represented Israel in Davis Cup.

• Dennis Hanover (martial arts) – Hanover is single-handedly, so to speak, responsible for reducing the fear of walking the streets of Israel. His "Survival" technique, a combination of jujitsu and self defense, has been adopted by the IDF and his proteges have even served as Michael Jackson's bodyguards.

• Teddy Kaplan (weightlifting, track & field) – Versatility is Kaplan's trademark, having represented Israel and South Africa in both sports. Kaplan has been world weightlifting champion four times, and European champion twice, besides holding records in the 100, 200 and 400 meters distances in the veteran masters category.

In 1990 he was crowned the bronze medalist in the European veterans event in the 200 meters.

• Cyril Morris (rugby) – No South African list could hold its own without a rugby hero and Morris is the man to fill the slot. As president of the Rugby Union of Israel, he has worked tirelessly to capture the flavor of the "old country," introducing rugby to the Maccabiah and also bringing Israel into the European Rugby Association.

• Leon Pantanowitz (karate) – His seventh Dan has placed Pantanowitz in an elite world class, making him a sought-after international referee and authority in the martial arts. In Israel for 26 years he brought his expertise to "Karate-Do International," the karate school he founded here.

• Stanley Perlman (cricket) – In his auspicious career, Perlman has not only seen the ball from both sides of the wicket but has also been heavily involved in promoting the sport here, as President of the Israel Cricket Association. Perlman captained the national team countless times and holds the record for the most runs and wickets taken in internationals.

• Jeff Rabkin (bowls) – In a consistent fashion Rabkin has heaped honors and recognition on Israel in the international bowls arena, besides injecting his youth into a sport more often linked with the slower side of life.

A bronze medalist in the world bowls event in 1992, Rabkin went one up in 1996, winning the silver medal with his impeccable play.

• Norman Spiro (bowls) – As the wood rolls steadily, determinedly, down the green, so is Spiro's dedication to the game and its promotion in Israel. One of the founders of the sport locally in 1952 when he coaxed the land from Ramat Gan mayor, Spiro is indefatigable in his efforts for greater exposure, which also includes his regular reports in *The Jerusalem Post*.

SPORTS

in brief

Munich crash survivor Blanchflower dies

MANCHESTER (Reuters) – Jackie Blanchflower, one of the Manchester United players who survived the Munich Air Crash in 1958, has died at the age of 65.

Just two weeks ago he was a guest at Old Trafford for a benefit match for victims of the disaster which claimed the lives of 23 people including eight United players when their plane crashed on take-off after a refuelling stop in Munich following a European Cup match in Belgrade.

Blanchflower, the younger brother of Tottenham Hotspur's 1961 Double-winning skipper Danny, was signed by Manchester United manager Matt Busby in 1949 and made 105 league appearances for United.

Although he survived the crash he was so badly injured he never played football again and later became an accountant.

Arantxa scoops award, named Spain's best player

OVIEDO, Spain (Reuters) – Arantxa Sanchez Vicario has been named the Prince of Asturias award winner for the leading international sports person in 1998.

The Spaniard won the French Open this year for the third time and was called "the greatest tennis player Spain has ever produced" by the voting panel, including International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch.

The Prince of Asturias prize, which also has categories for humanities, arts, literature, science and international relations, was founded in 1981 and named after the heir to the Spanish throne.

Past winners of the sporting award include middle distance runner Sebastian Coe, pole vaulter Sergei Bubka and five-times Tour de France winner Miguel Indurain.

Ronaldo expects to play again next week

ROME (Reuter) – Ronaldo hopes to play his first match since the World Cup final next week when Inter Milan play an Italian Cup game against Cesena.

"I'm working hard. Preparations are going well and I believe I'll be there (next week)," the Brazilian striker said.

"The World Cup and the problems I've had are a thing of the past now," he added after watching from the stand as Inter drew 1-1 in a friendly against Bologna on Wednesday.

After gaining around three kilos in weight, Ronaldo returned to Italy last month and began training on August 21.

Caesarea golf

The stifling heat at this week's pairs better ball stableford event at Caesarea's Golf Club led to few pars, less birdies but many bogeys.

Taking first place were Jules Cuburnek and Ivan Elias with 41 points. Two teams tied for second place with 40 points but their better back nine gave the advantage to Ben Hoffman and David Edel. Hanoch Reichenberg and Moshe Baumer were left in third place.

Heather Chait

English clubs want UEFA to run any Super League

LONDON (Reuters) – England's 20 premier league clubs agreed unanimously yesterday that any new European Super League should be run under the auspices of UEFA, European soccer's governing body, and rejected the concept of automatic qualification.

They also expressed doubt that the financial plan outlined by Media Partners, the organization promoting the new league, was viable, and said that any future negotiations would be carried out by the premier league and not by individual clubs.

Manchester United, Liverpool and Arsenal had been in discussion with Media Partners as recently as Monday.

Representatives of Media Partners and Gerhard Aigner, UEFA's general secretary, addressed a meeting of the premier league clubs' chairmen yesterday.

Chief executive Peter Leaver said afterwards: "The meeting listened very carefully to both presentations and noted the points made.

"There was clear, unanimous opposition to the suggestion of a breakaway but it was agreed that reform of the European club competitions was needed.

"The clubs stressed that playing under the current governing bodies was very important and that the future of the European competitions would be through UEFA." The clubs also rejected the central tenet of Media Partners' plan that half of the 36 Super League clubs would be guaranteed a place for three years based on their performance during the last 10 years.

BASEBALL

Continued from Page 24

Mets 4, Padres 1

Mike Piazza, Edgardo Alfonzo and Lenny Harris homered off faltering Andy Ashby for all of New York's runs as the visiting Mets remain a game behind Chicago in the NL wild-card chase.

Piazza and Alfonzo homered for the second straight night, and Piazza finished the nine-game West Coast trip with five homers and 12 RBIs.

Dodgers 6, Phillies 0

Carlos Perez threw a two-hitter for his first victory with host Los Angeles and Matt Luke and Eric Karros hit solo homers.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Athletics 2, Yankees 0

Host New York's quest to reach win No. 100 on the earliest date in major league history was delayed when it lost a game that began more than two hours late following heavy rain.

It was the first shutout loss at home for the Yankees since last September 19 against Toronto, and it ended David Cone's perfect 11-0 record in Yankee Stadium this season. It also marked just the third time in 67 home games this season that New York (99-38) failed to lead for at least part of the game.

The earliest date a team won its 100th game is September 9, a feat accomplished by both the 1906 Chicago Cubs and the 1954 Cleveland Indians. New York's next attempt will be today, when it starts a three-game series against the Chicago White Sox at Comiskey Park.

White Sox 3, Orioles 2

Rookie John Snyder pitched seven innings of three-hit ball as visiting Chicago extended Baltimore's losing streak to a season-high 10 games.

The 10-game skid is the Orioles' worst since they lost 21 straight to open the 1988 season. They fell below .500 for the first time since July 26.

Angels 13, Indians 5

Randy Velarde homered and had four hits as visiting Anaheim rocked and socked Bartolo Colon with seven runs in the first two innings.

Rangers 5, Tigers 3

Ivan Rodriguez snapped a 1-for-11 slump with two hits, including a two-run homer that helped Texas win on the road.

Red Sox 7, Mariners 3

Nomar Garciaparra hit a bottom-of-the-ninth grand slam to join Mark McGwire as one of five players to hit 30 homers in each of his first two seasons. Rudy York, Ron Kittle and Jose Canseco also had at least 30 homers in each of their first two seasons.

Devil Rays 4, Twins 1

Quinton McCracken extended his team-record hitting streak to 15 games and doubled home the go-ahead run in the seventh as Tampa Bay notched a road victory.

Blue Jays 5, Royals 0

Visiting Toronto's Kelvim Escobar limited Kansas City to four hits in 8⅓ innings and Alex Gonzalez hit his 12th homer.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
y-New York	99	38	.723	—
Boston	81	56	.591	18
Toronto	73	66	.525	27
Baltimore6	9	70	.496	31
Tampa Bay	54	84	.391	45½
Central Division				
Cleveland	76	62	.551	—
Chicago	64	75	.460	12½
Kansas City	64	75	.460	12½
Minnesota	61	77	.442	15
Detroit	53	86	.381	23½
West Division				
Anaheim	77	63	.550	—
Texas	74	65	.532	2½
Oakland	64	76	.457	13
Seattle	63	75	.457	13

y-clinched playoff berth

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	91	49	.650	—
New York	77	63	.550	14
Philadelphia	66	74	.471	25
Montreal	53	88	.376	38½
Florida	47	93	.336	44
Central Division				
Houston	88	52	.629	—
Chicago	78	62	.557	10
St. Louis	67	72	.482	20½
Milwaukee	65	74	.468	22½
Pittsburgh	64	73	.467	22½
Cincinnati	65	75	.464	23
West Division				
San Diego	90	50	.643	—
San Francisco	76	64	.543	14
Los Angeles	70	70	.500	20
Colorado	64	76	.457	26
Arizona	55	85	.393	35

WILD CARD STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	81	56	.591	—
Texas	74	65	.532	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	78	62	.557	—
New York	77	63	.550	1
San Francisco	76	64	.543	2

AMERICAN LEAGUE LEADERS

BATTING–BWilliams, New York, .341; DJeter, New York, .335; MVaughn, Boston, .331; Garciaparra, Boston, .324; IRodriguez, Texas, .323; TWalker, Minnesota, .322; Belle, Chicago, .319.

RUNS–DJeter, New York, 111; Durham, Chicago, 106; ARodriguez, Seattle, 105; Griffey Jr, Seattle, 105; Edmonds, Anaheim, 102; JnValentin, Boston, 101; Knoblauch, New York, 101.

RBI–JuGonzalez, Texas, 144; Belle, Chicago, 126; MRamirez, Cleveland, 119; Griffey Jr, Seattle, 117; RPalmeiro, Baltimore, 112; Garciaparra, Boston, 110; ARodriguez, Seattle, 110.

HITS–ARodriguez, Seattle, 181; DJeter, New York, 179; MVaughn, Boston, 169; Belle, Chicago, 167; O'Neill, New York, 167; Offerman, Kansas City, 166; Garciaparra, Boston, 165; GAnderson, Anaheim, 165.

HOME RUNS–Griffey Jr, Seattle, 47; Belle, Chicago, 42; RPalmeiro, Baltimore, 41; JuGonzalez, Texas, 39; ARodriguez, Seattle, 38; Canseco, Toronto, 37; MRamirez, Cleveland, 35.

STOLEN BASES–Henderson, Oakland, 57; Lofton, Cleveland, 47; Stewart, Toronto, 42; ARodriguez, Seattle, 39; Offerman, Kansas City, 38; BLHunter, Detroit, 35; Nixon, Minnesota, 33.

PITCHING (16 Decisions)–DWells, New York, 17-2, .895, 3.22; PMartinez, Boston, 18-4, .818, 2.87; Cone, New York, 18-5, .783, 3.58; Clemens, Toronto, 17-6, .739, 2.64; Wakefield, Boston, 15-6, .714, 4.44; Helling, Texas, 17-7, .708, 4.59; Saberhagen, Boston, 12-6, .667, 4.15.

STRIKEOUTS–Clemens, Toronto, 218; RJohnson, Seattle, 213; PMartinez, Boston, 208; CFinley, Anaheim, 186; Cone, New York, 174; Erickson, Baltimore, 159; Saunders, Tampa Bay, 150.

SAVES–Wetteland, Texas, 39; Percival, Anaheim, 38; Gordon, Boston, 38; MJackson, Cleveland, 34; Aguilera, Minnesota, 34; MRivera, New York, 33; JMontgomery, Kansas City, 31.

NATIONAL LEAGUE LEADERS

BATTING–Olerud, New York, .342; LWalker, Colorado, .341; Bichette, Colorado, .340; Kendall, Pittsburgh, .330; Gwynn, San Diego, .330; Biggio, Houston, .329; VGuerrero, Montreal, .327.

RUNS–ChJones, Atlanta, 112; Biggio, Houston, 112; McGwire, St. Louis, 112; Sosa, Chicago, 109; Bagwell, Houston, 106; GVaughn, San Diego, 104; VGuerrero, Montreal, 98; Rolen, Philadelphia, 98; Glanville, Philadelphia, 98.

RBI–Sosa, Chicago, 137; McGwire, St. Louis, 125; Alou, Houston, 118; Castilla, Colorado, 117; Bichette, Colorado, 115; Galarraga, Atlanta, 112; GVaughn, San Diego, 110.

HITS–Bichette, Colorado, 196; Biggio, Houston, 184; Castilla, Colorado, 179; VGuerrero, Montreal, 177; Glanville, Philadelphia, 172; Sosa, Chicago, 171; DeBell, Houston, 169.

HOME RUNS–McGwire, St. Louis, 59; Sosa, Chicago, 56; GVaughn, San Diego, 47; Galarraga, Atlanta, 42; Castilla, Colorado, 38; Alou, Houston, 38; VGuerrero, Montreal, 35.

STOLEN BASES–Womack, Pittsburgh, 51; Biggio, Houston, 44; Renteria, Florida, 40; EcYoung, Los Angeles, 38; Floyd, Florida, 27; AJones, Atlanta, 23; BLarkin, Cincinnati, 23.

PITCHING (16 Decisions)–Smoltz, Atlanta, 13-3, .812, 3.33; Glavine, Atlanta, 18-5, .783, 2.61; KBrown, San Diego, 17-5, .773, 2.41; ALeiter, New York, 13-5, .722, 2.47; GMaddux, Atlanta, 17-7, .708, 2.07; Lima, Houston, 14-6, .700, 3.83; Ashby, San Diego, 16-7, .696, 3.19; Tapani, Chicago, 16-7, .696, 4.85.

STRIKEOUTS–Schilling, Philadelphia, 258; Wood, Chicago, 233; KBrown, San Diego, 222; GMaddux, Atlanta, 179; Reynolds, Houston, 178; Nomo, New York, 163; Dreifort, Los Angeles, 160.

SAVES–Hoffman, San Diego, 45; Beck, Chicago, 42; Shaw, Los Angeles, 39; Nen, San Francisco, 34; JFranco, New York, 31; Urbina, Montreal, 28; BWagner, Houston, 27.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Chicago 000 102 000–3 6 0
Baltimore 002 000 000–2 3 0

Snyder, CCastillo (8), Howry (9) and Machado; Ponson, Mills (6), Rhodes (7), ALeiter (8), Orosco (8) and Webster. W–Snyder, 5-2. L–Mills, 1-4. Sv–Howry (4).

Texas 001 003 010–5 11 2
Detroit 000 100 011–3 8 1

Helling, LHernandez (7), Wetteland (9) and IRodriguez; Moehler, Brocail (8) and Bako. W–Helling, 17-7. L–Moehler, 12-12. Sv–Wetteland (39). HR–Texas, IRodriguez (14).

Toronto 000 011 003–5 5 0
Kansas City 000 000 000–0 4 3

Escobar, Quantrill (9) and BBrown; Rosado, Whisenant (9), Reed (9) and McSweeney. W–Escobar, 4-2. L–Rosado, 7-11. Sv–Quantrill (6). HR–Toronto, AGonzalez (12).

Anaheim 250 022 200–13 21 0
Cleveland 100 020 200–5 8 1

Sparks, Fetters (7) and Kreuter, O'Brien (8); Colon, Ogea (2), Wilson (6), DJones (8), Shuey (9) and SAlomar, EDiaz (8). W–Sparks, 9-2. L–Colon, 13-8. HRs–Anaheim, Edmonds (20), Velarde (4). Cleveland, MRamirez (35).

Seattle 000 011 100–3 15 0
Boston 000 000 304–7 7 1

Suzuki, Paniagua (7), McCarthy (7), Slocumb (7), Ayala (9) and Marzano, JOliver (8); Avery, Wasdin (7), Eckersley (8), Swindell (8), Gordon (9) and Varitek. W–Gordon, 7-3. L–Ayala, 1-10. HRs–Seattle, Buhner (15). Boston, Garciaparra (30), Benjamin (4).

Tampa Bay 001 000 102–4 11 0
Minnesota 000 001 000–1 5 1

WAlvarez, Yan (6), ALopez (9) and Flaherty; Hawkins, Guardado (9) and JnValentin. W–Yan, 5-4. L–Hawkins, 7-13. Sv–ALopez (7).

Oakland 100 000 010–2 6 0
New York 000 000 000–0 6 0

GHeredia, TJMathews (8), Taylor (9) and Hinch; Cone, Stanton (8), MRivera (9) and Girardi, Posada (). W–GHeredia, 3-0. L–Cone, 18-5. Sv–Taylor (29). HR–Oakland, Christenson (5).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Cincinnati 000 000 020–2 7 0
Chicago 000 001 02x–4 9 0

Bere, [illegible] (7), GWhite (8) and Fordyce, Taubensee (8); Trachsel, Mulholland (8), Karchner (8), Heredia (8), Beck (9) and Servais. W–Heredia, 2-3. L–GWhite, 5-5. Sv–Beck (42). HRs–Chicago, Sosa (56), Gaetti (14), Servais (7).

Montreal 020 000 001–3 8 1
San Francisco 411 240 00x–12 14 0

Vazquez, Bullinger (2), Bennett (5), MMaddux (5), Kline (7) and Henley; Ruerer, Brock (6), Horman (9) and BJohnson. W–Rueter, 14-9. L–Vazquez, 4-14. HRs–Montreal, Hardaway (3). San Francisco, Bonds (32).

St. Louis 001 600 250–14 13 3
Florida 000 000 310–4 8 0

Mercker, Petkovsek (8), Evergerd (9) and Marrero; JSanchez, Ludwick (4), Edmondson (7), Stanifer (8), Speier (9) and Keene. W–Mercker, 9-11. L–JSanchez, 4-8. HRs–St. Louis, McGwire 2 (59), Mercker (1). Florida, Kotsay (9).

Arizona 000 000 001 01–2 8 0
Pittsburgh 000 100 000 00–1 5 1
(11 innings)

AnBenes, WBanks (8), Small (10), Olson (11) and Miller, Devens; Christiansen (8), MWilliams (8), Rincon (9), Loiselle (9), Tabaka (11) and Kendall. W–Small, 3-8. L–Tabaka, 2-2. Sv–Olson (25). HR–Arizona, TBatista (14).

Houston 010 020 100–4 12 1
Atlanta 100 000 001–2 5 0

RJohnson, BWagner (9) and Ausmus; GMaddux, Ligtenberg (8), Carlton (9) and JLopez. W–RJohnson, 6-1. L–GMaddux, 17-7. Sv–BWagner (27). HRs–Houston, Biggio (19), Bagwell (29), Berry (12). Atlanta, AJones (25).

Colorado 000 002 200–4 9 0
Milwaukee 000 205 00x–8 10 0

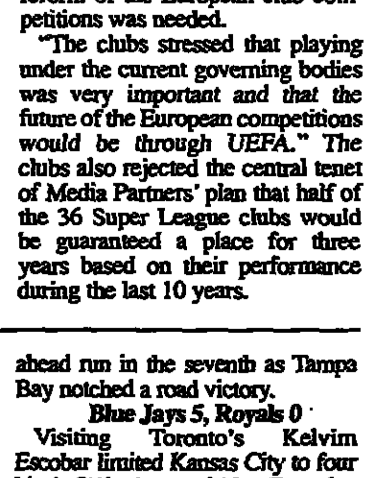
Astacio, Wainhouse (7) and Manwaring, JReed (7); Roque, Plunk (7), HMyers (8), Wickman (9) and Hughes, Matheny (8). W–Roque, 3-2. L–Astacio, 11-14. HRs–Colorado, Manwaring (2). Milwaukee, Nilsson (7), Grillo (12), Burnitz (31).

Philadelphia 000 000 000–0 2 0
Los Angeles 000 120 12x–6 11 1

LGrace, HiGrace (7), Ryan (8) and Estalella; CPerez and CJohnson. W–CPerez, 8-13. L–LGrace, 6-7. HRs–Los Angeles, Karros (21), Luke (10).

New York 012 100 000–4 6 0
San Diego 100 000 000–1

Reynoso, JFranco (9) and Piazza; Ashby, Boehringer (8), SSanders (9) and LHernandez. W–Reynoso, 6-1. L–Ashby, 16-7. Sv–JFranco (31). HRs–New York, Alfonzo (15), Piazza (28), LHarris (5). San Diego, Gwynn (12).



Inside

SA sports heroes honored

Page 23

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Surrey jolted by Yorkshire

LONDON (Reuters) – County championship leaders Surrey suffered a jolt to their hopes of winning the title for the first time since 1971 when Yorkshire shot them out for only 147 at Headingley yesterday.

That gave the home side a first innings lead of 103, which they extended to 245 by the close, with six wickets left.

The rapidly improving Scottish bowler Gavin Hamilton, who collected only 18 wickets in nine matches last season, did the damage by taking seven for 50.

That followed his six for 50 against Essex and 10 wickets in the match against Glamorgan over the past month.

Even before the current round of matches, Surrey's long standing lead had been cut to 15 points over Leicestershire, who continued to prosper.

They bowled out Warwickshire for 276 and set them 405 to win.

Victory for Leicestershire today would mean a change of leadership even if Surrey hold out for a draw against Yorkshire.

Knockin' at Ruth's door

McGwire reaches 59, ties Babe for 3rd place in season HRs

MIAMI (AP) – Mark McGwire hit a pair of home runs for the second consecutive night Wednesday against Florida, giving him a career-best 59. He needs just two more to tie Roger Maris' 37-year-old Major League Baseball record.

McGwire homered in the seventh inning against Brian Edmondson and again in the eighth on the first pitch from Rob Stanifer.

By reaching 59, he ties Yankees great Babe Ruth for third place for the most home runs in a season. Ruth had 59 in 1921. Ruth also holds second place with 60 in 1927.

Each of McGwire's blasts was a two-run homer, helping the St. Louis Cardinals win 14-4.

The first homer, which landed halfway up in the upper deck in left field, was estimated at 497 feet, making it the third-longest in the history of Pro Player Stadium. The second homer was to left center and traveled an estimated 458 feet.

In his first three at-bats, McGwire grounded into a double play, walked twice and scored on pitcher Kent Mercker's grand slam in the fourth. Mercker (9-11) allowed two earned runs in seven innings.

Jesus Sanchez (6-8) took the loss. Mark Kotsay homered for Florida.

Astros 4, Braves 2

Houston's Randy Johnson dominated host Atlanta for eight innings and easily won the showdown with four-time Cy Young winner Greg Maddux.

Johnson allowed only four hits and fanned 10, the 99th time he's reached double figures in strikeouts, second in baseball history to Nolan Ryan's 215.

Johnson (6-1) batted in the ninth and began warming up for the final inning before feeling a cramp in his left leg. The trainer came out and then walked back to the dugout with Johnson at his side.

The Astros pounded Maddux (17-7) for 10 hits in seven innings, scoring all of their runs on three homers.

Cubs 4, Reds 2

Sammy Sosa hit his 56th homer to tie Hack Wilson's 68-year-old club record and Gary Gaetti added a two-run shot for host Chicago.

Sosa, leading off the bottom of the sixth, hit an 0-1 pitch from Cincinnati's Jason Bere into the first row of the right-field bleachers.

Giants 12, Expos 3

Barry Bonds hit his fourth home run in four games and Jeff Kent had two doubles and four RBIs for host San Francisco.

Arizona 2, Pirates 1 (11)

Tony Batista hit a tying home run in the top of the ninth, then tripled and scored on Devon White's single in the 11th as Arizona takes a team-record five-game winning streak.

Brewers 8, Rockies 4

Jeff Cirillo, Dave Nilsson and Jeromy Burnitz hit two-run homers in Milwaukee's home victory.

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THREE TO GO – Cardinals' Mark McGwire hits his 58th home run in the seventh inning of Wednesday's game against the Marlins. He belted his 59th one inning later. McGwire needs three more to break Roger Maris's record. (Reuters)

Israel take on Austria tomorrow

By ORI LEWIS

Israeli soccer will again get the chance to prove itself against major international opposition tomorrow night when in Vienna, the national team take on Austria in the opening match of their bid to qualify for the finals of Euro 2000.

The Israel squad, under the guidance of Shlomo Scharf, now in his fourth term as national coach, have yet to raise the level of their performance and produce a result in official competition (not international friendlies) which justify the hopes of a nation which is desperate for success at the highest level and a repeat of the highs of 1970, when the national team played in the World Cup finals in Mexico.

Israel's last away win against a major soccer nation in official competition was the 3-2 win over France in the qualifying competition for USA '94 in Paris, and the last away draw against strong opposition was the 2-2 draw against Bulgaria in Sofia in the same campaign.

Israel are undoubtedly the underdogs for tomorrow's match but there is plenty of talent in the side and no little experience. All Israeli eyes will be on Eyal Berkovic, Haim Revivo and Ronnen Harazi, who will have to lead from the front against the formidable Austrians led by Ivica Vastic and striker Mario Haas.

Scharf has talked about getting a result – not losing – against the Austrians, who are effectively Israel's rivals for second place in qualifying group 6 behind Spain. The group is made up by Cyprus and whipping boys San Marino.

A loss for Israel would effectively make capturing second place – assuming that Spain clinch top spot – almost impossible, so a supreme effort will be required from the boys in blue and white come kickoff time tomorrow at 21:30.

Scharf is probably going to pick experience instead of youth – Rafi Cohen instead of Nir Davdovich – for the goalkeeping spot despite the former's poor form.

Scharf is likely to stay with the successful 3-5-2 formation which saw Israel win an unprecedented five straight matches – albeit all friendlies – before the 2-0 loss to Poland last month. The back three of Arik Benado, Amir Shelah and Ran Ben-Shimon have combined well together, while the bolstered midfield will comprise Yossi Abuksis, David Ansalem, Berkovic, Walid Badir, who will probably have the job of marking Vastic, either Jan Talasnikov who has an injury scare, or Alon Harazi, Revivo and potent striker Ronen Harazi.

Austria are fairly suspect at the back and will be without two defensive stalwarts, Heimo Pfeifenberger and Arnold Wetl. But this should not make the Israelis complacent and they should take note that their hosts are the type of team they do not do well against: a big, strong and not too technical side.

Due to the international fixture there will not be any National League fixtures tomorrow.

Hingis joins Williams, Sanchez Vicario in 3rd round

NEW YORK (Reuters) – World No. 1 Martina Hingis passed the first real test of her US Open title defence with flying colours yesterday.

Faced with a player she had previously met in a Grand Slam final in only the second round at Flushing Meadow, the sensational Swiss teenager turned back Iva Majoli of Croatia 7-6 6-0 in 65 minutes in a match postponed by Wednesday night rain.

It was Majoli, who last year denied Hingis an historic Grand Slam sweep by beating her in the French Open final.

Hingis has since repeatedly punished Majoli for that loss and has now beaten her four consecutive times without the loss of a set.

Majoli, whose ranking has slipped to 21 after being seeded fourth here last year, battled back from 1-4 down in the first set to force the tie-break. But Hingis took the breaker 7-4 and was off to the races.

Hingis was joined in the third round by fourth-seeded former champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and fifth seed Venus Williams, who made short work of a pair of qualifiers earlier yesterday.

Williams, last year's runner-up in her US Open debut, overpowered 137th-ranked Anne Kremer of Luxembourg 6-1 6-3 in 58 minutes, while French Open champion and 1994 US Open winner Sanchez Vicario needed one more game and 12 more minutes to outrun 129th-ranked Colombian Fabiola Zuluaga 6-3 6-2.

Pint-sized power-hitter Amanda Coetzer of South Africa, the 13th seed, beat them both to the locker-room with a 6-0 6-2, 55-minute rout of another qualifier, Raluca Sandu of Romania, fiance of French Open champion Carlos Moya.

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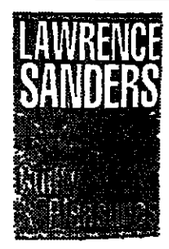

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